

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Ankle injury  
to keep Owens  
out of playoffs**  
Back page

Eagles receiver Terrell Owens



**U.S. air carriers  
soon will require  
payment in euros**  
Page 4



**Self-heating  
latte to perk up  
commute**  
Page 4

Volume 63, No. 249 © SS 2004 G

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2004

50¢

## 19 GIs killed in strike at U.S. base in Iraq

At least 24 killed in insurgent attack on dining hall in Mosul

Page 5



RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

U.S. soldiers help a wounded comrade after an insurgent attack on a dining facility during lunchtime Tuesday at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. Officials said 24 people — a combination of U.S. military personnel, U.S. contractors, foreign national contractors and Iraqi army soldiers — were killed and 57 wounded.

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

COMING  
SOON

On Thursday

Ring in 2005  
the European way

Catherine Zeta-Jones

## Personality Parade

Celebrity news  
from ParadeDon't miss a  
single issue.For home delivery,  
call DSN 349-8437STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper

## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	24
American Roundup .....	18-19
Classified .....	25-26
Comics .....	22-24
Crossword .....	23
Faces .....	21
Horseplay .....	22
Letters .....	14
Opinion .....	14-15
Sports .....	27-36
TV listings .....	20
Weather .....	17
Your Money .....	16

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Capized water taxi:** A water taxi that flipped over in Baltimore's Inner Harbor earlier this year in a sudden storm had too much weight aboard, according to a federal report.

Five passengers were thrown from the Seaport Taxi vessel in March, and died when it capsized in winds exceeding 50 mph.

The National Transportation Safety Board, in a report released Monday, said operators of the 36-foot Lady D followed passenger limits set by the Coast Guard, but outdated weight estimates were used.

**Michael Jackson trial:** A judge denied a defense bid to delay Michael Jackson's child molestation trial, saying it would be "a huge step backward" and clearing the way for the trial to begin next month as planned.

In Santa Maria, Calif., Judge Rodney S. Melville also refused to dismiss the case for what his defense lawyers had argued was "vindictive prosecution and outrageous government conduct."

Jackson attorney Robert Sanger had asked Melville to postpone the trial for three months, allowing attorneys time to sort through 14,000 pages of evidence filed by prosecutors. The trial was scheduled to begin Jan. 31.

**Lottery winner's granddaughter:** The 17-year-old granddaughter of the winner of the largest U.S. lottery jackpot was found dead near her boyfriend's home, her body wrapped in a sheet and plastic tarp.

"All I know is she OD'd and Brandon freaked out," Steve Croder, the father of Brandi Bragg's boyfriend, Brandon, told reporters.

Bragg, who lived in the nearby town of Hurricane, was last seen alive Dec. 4. She was reported missing five days later by Jack Whittaker, who won a \$314.9 million jackpot on Christmas Day 2002 but has battled legal and other problems since then.

The cause of death was under investigation.

**Ohio voting machine investigation:** Election officials in Hocking County, Ohio, watched as a technician repeated a request he had made to a vote tallying computer, then announced they had found no evidence of any sort of tampering, despite a congressman's request for an FBI probe.

Observers, including a Green Party representative who had sought a presidential recount, agreed the procedure did not alter the Election Day vote total in the county, Hocking County Prosecutor Larry Bell said.

**Dick Clark's health:** TV personality-producer Dick Clark will spend Christmas, and perhaps New Year's Eve, in a hospital where he's recovering from a mild stroke, his spokeswoman said.

Clark, who suffered the stroke Dec. 6, is out of the intensive care unit and "doing some rehab," said publicist Paul Shefrin.

He will remain hospitalized through Christmas, and will be watching his New Year's Eve special either from his hospital bed or at



**Maryland arsons:** A supporter of Patrick Walsh, Michael Everhart and Jeremy Parady is restrained during an altercation with a protester outside the Federal Courthouse in Greenbelt, Md., on Monday. Walsh, Everhart and Parady were in court and charged with arson in connection with the Dec. 6 fires at an upscale development in Indian Head, Md. Two more suspects were arrested Monday, but authorities say they have not found a motive for the arson that caused an estimated \$10 million in damage. Two possible motives, race and revenge, are among the theories that have emerged, an official has said.

home in Malibu, Calif., Shefrin said.

**Suspected Mafia graveyard:** Remains recently discovered buried in a suspected Mafia graveyard in Queens, N.Y., were those of two mob captains who were murdered in 1981, the FBI said Monday.

An investigation by the FBI's Evidence Response Team and the city medical examiner determined the victims were Bonanno crime family captains Philip Giaccone and Dominick Trinchera, said Pasquale D'A-muro, head of the bureau's New York office.

**Seattle church-abuse lawsuits:** The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle has agreed to pay \$1.8 million to settle 12 claims of sexual abuse by priests.

Eleven of the settled cases involved the Rev. James McGreal, who was banned from the ministry and lives in a supervised church facility in Missouri.

The 12th claim involved the Rev. David Jaeger, who admitted in the mid-1990s that he inappropriately touched a 13-year-old boy at a youth camp in 1978. Jaeger is on administrative leave.

## Business

**AOL spam case:** Federal prosecutors and a former America Online software engineer have negotiated a tentative plea agreement over charges he stole more than 92 million e-mail addresses and sold them to Internet spammers, according to two people familiar with the case.

Jason Smathers, 24, of Harper's Ferry, W. Va., was scheduled to appear Tuesday in

court. In exchange for a guilty plea by Smathers to violating the U.S. "Can Spam" law, prosecutors will recommend a fine and up to two years in prison, according to one person familiar with the agreement.

## World

**New Afghanistan Cabinet:** President Hamid Karzai will demand that all members of his new Cabinet renounce their citizenship in any other country, despite a constitutional loophole that would allow them to serve for an interim period, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Many of Afghanistan's political elite have acquired U.S. or British nationality while living abroad during more than two decades of near-constant warfare. Some have been reluctant to give up their status, earning criticism that they lack faith in Afghanistan's future.

**Athens bus hijacking:** Two Albanian housepainters apologized at their arraignment Monday for seizing a Greek bus last week and taking more than two dozen passengers hostage.

Gaz Resuli and Leonard Murati, who were ordered to stand trial on charges of kidnapping and attempted murder, said they took the hostages and demanded a \$1.3 million ransom to start a business in Albania.

The men, both 24, were accused of hijacking the public bus Wednesday near Athens. The 18-hour standoff ended after police cornered off the bus and negotiated the release of all 26 hostages on board. No one was injured.

They each face up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

Stories and photo from wire services

## Correction

A story in Tuesday's editions about the rescheduling of spring break for some Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe misidentified the director of DODDS-Europe. Diana Ohman is the director.



You'll feel warm all over with some  
**Holiday Cash**  
From Service Credit Union

**7.74%**  
35 basis point discount  
available with direct deposit  
and automatic loan payment  
Contact us for details!  
**APPLY TODAY!**

**Service**  
CREDIT UNION

www.servicecu.org  
24 Hour Contact Center  
800-800-4728-2000

**Comics, horoscopes and  
advice — every day in  
Stars and Stripes**

\*Rate shown in Annual Percentage Rate, accurate as of 10/01/04 and subject to change without notice. Rates and terms determined by the overall creditworthiness of each applicant. Must be a member of SCU or eligible for membership to apply. Offer available on current SCU loans which qualify for additional funds of \$25,000 or more. Not to be combined with other special discounted offers.

**NCUA**  
Member



# U.S. air carriers switch to euro-only sales

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

In January, American air carriers will cease to accept dollars as payment from customers in Germany — a move that makes that country fall in step with its neighbors, but has some travel agents fearing that the fall of the green-back against the euro may result in pricier tickets.

"It's simply cost-efficient," said Günter Müller, who manages the German office of the International Air Transport Association, the airlines' trade organization.

"We can save money for the American carriers," he said. But Müller said the change shouldn't impact the customer. They can still pay in dollars if a travel agency chooses to accept them. The agency would then have to have to pay the airline in euros.

Müller said that's standard practice everywhere else in the world anyway, and that Germany is late in joining up.

But with so many Americans living in Germany, the airline association had allowed agencies to sell in dollars.

Germany's ABC Travel Service took advantage of that to attract American business, even to the point of accepting checks, in dollars, from U.S. troops.

"It was a specific market: the military market," said Herbert Blessinger, who heads the ABC chain. "Now it's finished."

Blessinger expects the price of tickets back to the United States via American carriers to rise 15 percent to 20 percent when they are converted to a euro rate, depending on the airline.

"The dollar is very low," Blessinger said. "Automatically

Beginning next month, the price of airline tickets for flights between the United States and Germany will be in euros, not dollars.

For example, a flight between Frankfurt, Germany, and Washington, D.C., that is priced at \$863 will be €28.43 euros at the current rate.

If the dollar continues to fall against the euro and the price of a ticket remains steady in euros, passengers will need more dollars to pay for tickets — an increase of about \$12 for each euro cent.

the price goes higher."

Blessinger said the change hurts his office directly, too, because he'll have to handle money differently. He can't give U.S. cash to the airlines anymore, so he'll

have to interact more with banks if he wants to take dollars.

"What we are working on right now is to accept dollars, convert to euro and pay the carriers in euro," he said. "But it's a risk."

The reason is the chance of a dollar drop in between the time the customer pays and ABC visits the bank to convert those dollars into euros.

Conversion could also take more from American customers who pay with credit cards, one agency manager worried.

"When the customer pays with a credit card, it will automatically be converted," said Helga Bernd, who manages the SatoTravel office at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. But the airline will also have converted its U.S.-set prices to euros for sale to customers in Germany, meaning two conversions.

"I'd assume that with the high

euro-dollar exchange rate, it will have a negative impact in pricing," Bernd said.

She also assumes the change is a response on the airlines' part to the low value of the dollar.

However, a spokeswoman for the International Air Transport Association's executive office in Geneva said the change is only an internal one.

"It's the way in which we do our business," she said. "It's back-office-type changes, not front-office-type changes."

She also said Germany's special situation was at odds with the rest of the industry.

"IATA favors standardization," she said. "We try to work as much as possible in an [European Union]-type way."

"It's to make things simpler and better. We don't make changes for change's sake."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@strips.osd.mil

## Self-heating coffee to hit stores

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

Workers in the United States often see their morning commute as a battle. Soon they'll have technology similar to what the military is using to aid in the fight.

USA Today reported in its Monday editions that beginning Jan. 2, consumers can buy a 10-ounce container of Wolfgang Puck gourmet latte at the store and heat it by pressing a button, without using electricity or appliances.

How does the can do it? A single step mixes calcium oxide (quicklime) and water. It heats the coffee to 145 degrees in six minutes — and stays hot for 30 minutes.

It's much like a technology being tested by Natick Soldier Systems for inclusion in Meals-Ready-To-Eat. The "hot beverage bag" is to be fielded in 2005.

The military's version is less bulky, is disposable and carries no "flame signature," that is, cannot be detected by an enemy.

Puck is the owner of Los Angeles eateries Spago and Chinois. He has licensed his name to WP Beverage Partners, a beverage firm. WP has linked up with OnTech, a technology specialist, that designed the

heating process.

Nestlé has tested a similar technology with Nescafé in Europe, and smaller companies have tested it in Asia.

"We investigated that technology 15 years ago," said Daine Wood, a scientist with the Combat Feeding Directorate in Natick, Mass.

"They used it for sake [an alcoholic beverage] in Asia. Consumers got it from a vending machine on the train and had a drink on the way home."

Retail grocer Kroger is so convinced the product will be a hit, it will offer the cans in its 2,300 stores — and negotiated a deal to be the only seller until mid-February.

"There's nothing like it on the market," says John Spalding, who oversees all coffee sales at Kroger, today USA Today.

The Defense Commissary Agency could not say whether they would try to carry the item.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service spokesman Judd Anstey said AAFES is in the process of contacting the vendor to see what the plans are for selling to other retailers.

The Puck coffee will retail for about \$2.25.

E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@strips.osd.mil



COURTESY OF BEVERAGE SPECTRUM MAGAZINE

The new Wolfgang Puck self-heating latte heats a cup of coffee in six minutes with no external equipment or power, using technology similar to what the military has been testing for years.

## Financial company flooded by messages

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawyers handling refunds in the First Command Financial Planning case have received hundreds of e-mails in the past week regarding the payouts, mainly from troops serving overseas.

Wayne M. Secore, the attorney administering the restitution program, said his staff is working to respond to those soldiers and other affected by the case as quickly as possible. But troops have until March 15 to recoup their losses, which he said leaves plenty of time for officials to handle the requests. In addition, that deadline can be extended if troops can't file in time because of unusual hardship, such as serving in a combat zone, he said.

Last week, First Command agreed to refund about \$4 million to certain customers who bought mutual funds from the firm between 1999 and this year. The company mainly caters to military personnel, and securities investigators accused them of misleading investors about service charges in their systematic investment plans.

The company no longer offers those investments, officials announced last week. First Command's other financial services — such as life insurance and banking programs — were not affected by the settlement.

The refunds will be available only to customers who bought and sold their systematic investment plans between 1999 and this year, Secore said. Eligible individuals should be receiving letters detailing how to obtain the payouts in the next few weeks.

Secore said troops with additional questions can contact him at secorew@securewall.com.

Investors who still hold their First Command plans may be eligible for arbitration to recover certain service fees. Those claims will be handled through the National Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Center, the brokerage industry's self-policing organization.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@strips.osd.mil

## Poll: Americans support staying in Iraq despite doubts

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite growing doubts, most Americans still support keeping U.S. military troops in Iraq until the country is stabilized, according to polls released Monday.

More than half — 56 percent — say the United States should keep troops in Iraq until it is stable, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Forty percent said troops should be brought home as soon as possible.

That's about the same level of support that Pew has found all year for keeping troops in Iraq until it's stabilized. An ABC News-Washington Post poll got essentially

the same results.

"Even for critics of the decision to go to war, pulling out is seen as further increasing the risks of terrorism and raising the threat to the United States," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center.

Four in 10 said they approve of the way the United States has handled the situation in Iraq, while almost six in 10 disapprove, according to a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll. A year ago, almost two-thirds approved of the way Iraq was being handled.

Half in the Gallup poll say the situation is worse than a year ago, while 20 percent say it's better. People were evenly divided on whether more troops should be sent to

Iraq to help with upcoming elections.

About four in 10, 42 percent, in the ABC News-Washington Post poll said they approve of Bush's handling of Iraq, while 57 percent disapprove. Six in 10 said the elections scheduled for late January should be held on schedule, even though most say Iraq is not ready for the elections to be held.

The Pew poll of 2,000 adults was taken Dec. 1-16 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points, larger for subgroups. The Gallup poll of 1,002 adults was taken Dec. 17-19 and the ABC Post poll of 1,004 adults was taken Dec. 16-19.

Both polls have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.



# 19 GIs killed in Mosul attack

At least 24 dead in assault on U.S. base

BY MICHAEL McDONOUGH  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Nineteen U.S. soldiers were killed in an attack on a U.S. and Iraqi base near the northern city of blast, the U.S. military said. Three other soldiers of unknown nationality also died, a military spokesman said in Baghdad.

It was the deadliest single incident for U.S. troops since the start of the war in Iraq. But Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, spokesman for Task Force Olympia in Mosul, said 24 people died and 57 were wounded. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the different death counts.

"The number is very chaotic, we've had different numbers," Hastings said.

The attack came the same day that British Prime Minister Tony Blair made a surprise visit to Baghdad and described the ongoing violence in Iraq as a "battle between democracy and terror."

Halliburton spokeswoman

Wendy Hall said seven of the dead were from its KBR subsidiary or its subcontractors, Halliburton and its subcontractors have lost 62 personnel while performing services under our contracts in the Kuwait-Iraq region, she said.

Jeremy Redmon, a reporter for the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch embedded with the troops in Mosul said the people in the tent had just sat down to eat at Forward Operating Base Marez.

Officials could not break down the toll of dead or wounded among the groups. Reports also differed as to the cause of the blast at the camp, which is based outside the predominantly Sunni Muslim city about 220 miles north of Baghdad.

The base, also known as the al-Ghizli military camp, is used by both U.S. troops and the interim Iraqi government's security forces.

Although military officials initially said rockets or mortar



RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

A hole in the roof of a tent at Forward Operating Base Marez lights the smoke moments after an attack on a dining facility Tuesday in Mosul, Iraq. U.S. officials said 24 people were killed and 57 were wounded in the attack, occurring as troops had just sat down for lunch.

rounds struck the camp, Hastings said it was still under investigation.

"We do not know if it was a mortar or a place explosive," he said, describing it as a "single explosion."

Bill Nemitz, a columnist with the Portland Press Herald embedded with the Maine National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion, told CNN there was a concrete dining hall under construction that was supposed to be finished by Christmas. He said he

heard "a lot of discussion" among the troops about the vulnerability of the tent.

Hastings told CNN that "there is a level of vulnerability when you go in there [the tent] and you don't feel like there's a hard — hard roof over your head, and when there's mortar attacks and explosions that happen, there is a level of vulnerability."

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on the Internet. It said the attack was a "martyrdom operation" targeting a dining tent in the al-Ghizli camp.

Ansar al-Sunnah is believed to be a fundamentalist group that wants to turn Iraq into an Islamic state like Afghanistan's former Taliban regime. The Sunni Muslim group claimed responsibility for beheading 12 Nepalese hostages and other recent attacks in Mosul.

Mosul was the scene of the deadliest single incident for U.S. troops in Iraq. On Nov. 15, 2003, two Black Hawk helicopters collided over the city, killing 17 soldiers and injuring five. The crash occurred as the two choppers maneuvered to avoid ground fire from insurgents.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, was relatively peaceful in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime last year. But insurgent attacks in the largely Sunni Arab area have increased dramatically in the past year and particularly since the U.S.-led military operation in November to retake the restive city of Fallujah from militants.

Also Tuesday, Iraqi security forces repelled another attack by insurgents trying to seize a police station in the center of the city, the U.S. military said.

SEE MOSUL ON PAGE 6

## Seasons Greetings, Sgt. Delbert Jensen

Your friends and co-workers at Noramco want to wish you a Happy Holiday!



## 'I can't hear,' one soldier cried

Editor's note: Jeremy Redmon, a Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch reporter embedded with U.S. troops, was at Forward Operating Base Marez when it came under attack.

BY JEREMY REDMON  
Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq — It was a brilliant, sunny day with blue skies and warmer than usual weather in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers had just sat down for lunch in their giant chow hall tent.

It was about noon Tuesday when insurgents hit their tent with a suspected rocket attack, killing at least 24 people, including two soldiers from the Richmond-based 27th Engineer Battalion. Fifty-seven people were reported wounded; civilians may have been among them.

The force of the explosions knocked soldiers off their feet and out of their seats. A fireball enveloped the top of the tent, and shrapnel sprayed into the men.

Amid the screaming and thick

smoke that followed, quick-thinking soldiers turned their lunch tables upside down, placed the wounded on them and gently carried them into the parking lot.

Medics rushed into the tent and hustled the rest of the wounded out on stretchers.

Scores of troops crammed into concrete bomb shelters outside.

Others huddled around the tent and collapsed, dazed by the blast.

"I can't hear! I can't hear!" one female soldier cried as a friend hugged her.

Near the front entrance to the chow hall, troops tended a soldier with a gaping head wound. Within minutes, they zipped him into a black body bag. Three more bodies were in the parking lot.

Soldiers scrambled back into the hall to check for more wounded.

The explosions blew out a huge hole in the roof of the tent.

Puddles of bright red blood, lunch trays and overturned tables and chairs covered the floor.

SEE MAREZ ON PAGE 6

STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper

www.stripes.com



JEREMIAH JOHNSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team run past a Stryker vehicle during Operation Indy in Mosul, Iraq, on Nov. 11.

## Army looks to give Stryker a face lift

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Army officials learned some important lessons when its first Stryker Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq this fall that are helping the 12th Stryker Brigade Combat Team from Wainwright, Alaska, do to go into the country next summer.

Soldiers have suggested small improvements that have already been made, such as new seat belts and interior hand-holds.

But there are larger issues still at stake, such as shaving the vehicle's weight, its potential to roll over and trap soldiers, and whether the current "cage" armor is effective, critics say.

Army leaders recently attempted to change such impressions by holding a media video teleconference with a dozen Stryker commanders from four locations.

Col. Steven Townsend, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division who spoke from Fort Lewis, Wash., called the Stryker "a heck of a vehicle."

"Soldiers know this vehicle is not perfect, they do know and believe it's the best vehicle available and they have it to use today," Townsend, whose was the first Stryker Brigade Combat Team to deploy to Iraq, in October 2003, said during the roundtable.

Commanders at the 12th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which is due to go into the country next summer, are busy using lessons learned from the first Stryker Brigade in Iraq, brigade commander Col. Michael Shields said during the roundtable.

The lessons learned from their predecessors "are really helping," Shields said.

Many of the lessons are simple, such as the need for additional handholds welded inside the Stryker.

Commanders in Iraq also real-

ized that the original seat belts were not long enough to accommodate a soldier wearing the new individual body armor and other bulky items on his person.

With the seat belts uncomfortable, tight, soldiers simply were not strapping in while the vehicle was moving, commanders said, increasing the danger during collisions, explosions or rollovers.

With new seat belts, the problem has been solved, Fuller said. Commanders in Iraq also determined that the Stryker's "third cage" slatted armor was not making the common armored vehicle issue of rollovers, even worse.

The armor, designed to defeat rocket propelled grenades, acts like a baseball catcher's mask: the explosives bounce off or do damage to the armor, not the vehicle.

The cage armor also is sufficiently effective to withstand most improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, and RPGs, another question raised by critics in the past, Army leaders said.

Col. Gordie Flowers, commander of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, said during his year in Iraq, more than 50 percent of his Strykers were hit with rocket propelled grenades and IEDs, "the No. 1 and No. 2 weapons used against us," with no resulting fatalities.

The slat armor may be effective, but at 4,500 pounds, it does unquestionably and significantly add to the Stryker's basic 19-ton weight.

And weight remains a serious issue for the Stryker brigade, which Army planners originally said would have the capability of deployment by C-130 transport aircraft, anywhere in the world within 6 hours.

"The C-130 transportability remains "an important metric, and we'll continue to pursue it," Fuller said. "We're working to reduce the (Stryker's) weight."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

## Mosul: Blair in Iraq amid deadly attack

MOSUL, FROM PAGE 5

During his visit, Blair held talks with Allawi and Iraqi election officials, whom he called heroes for carrying out their work despite attacks. Three members of Iraq's election commission were dragged from a car and killed this week in Baghdad.

"I said to them that I thought they were the heroes of the new Iraq that's being created, because here are people who are risking their lives every day to make sure that the people of Iraq get a chance to decide their own destiny," Blair said at a joint news conference with Allawi.

Blair, who has paid a political price for going to war in Iraq, defended the role of Britain's 8,000 troops by referring to terrorism.

"If we defeat it here, we deal it a blow worldwide," he said.

"If Iraq is a stable and democratic country, that is good for the Middle East, and what is good for the Middle East is actually good for the world, including Britain."

Blair, whose trip to Iraq hadn't been discussed for security rea-

sons, urged Iraqis to back next month's elections.

Allawi said his government was committed to holding the elections as scheduled, despite calls for their postponement owing to the violence.

"We have always expected that the violence would increase as we approach the elections," Allawi said. "We now are on the verge, for the first time in history, of having democracy in action in this country."

It was Blair's first visit to Baghdad and his third to Iraq since the dictator Saddam Hussein was toppled in April 2003. Blair visited British troops stationed around the southern Iraqi city of Basra in mid-2003 and in January. Blair flew to Basra later Tuesday.

In other violence Tuesday, five American soldiers and an Iraqi civilian were wounded when the Humvee they were traveling in was hit by a car bomb near Hawija, 150 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

John Lumpkin and Slobodan Lekic of The Associated Press contributed to this story in Washington and Baghdad, respectively.

## Blast in Mosul

An explosion at a U.S. base in the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday caused multiple casualties.



**Statement by Brig. Gen. Carter Kamel, commander of Task Force Olympia in Mosul, Iraq:**

"There has been an incident at one of our bases in southwest Mosul. There was a single large explosion in a dining facility. We don't yet know the source of that explosion. The investigation is ongoing by explosives experts to determine ... the source."

"The attack today had a very negative effect against multinational forces and our Iraqi partners here in Mosul."

"So far, more than 20 have been killed, and more than 60 wounded. The killed include U.S. military personnel, U.S. contractors, foreign national contractors and Iraqi Army. The wounded also include husbands and fathers."

"We are in the process now of making notifications to the families and units of those who were killed or wounded in today's tragic attack."

"Our hearts go out to the families and our fellow soldiers who lost comrades in arms today, who lost husbands and fathers and brothers, both Americans and Iraqis. It is, indeed, a very, very sad day."

"But I would also say, in their typically magnificent manner, U.S. soldiers today responded to that attack just as we would have expected them to: with unselfish care for one another. It was a heartwarming experience to see wounded soldiers caring for those more severely wounded."

"And in the chaos that followed that attack, there was no differentiation by nationalities, whether one wore a uniform or civilian clothes, they were all brothers. We're making care of one another."

"And I think that's something that all Americans, and indeed all Iraqis, can be very proud of."

"I ask you on this sad day that you keep us in your thoughts, your hearts and your prayers. There are those who lost many loved ones today. It's a sad day in Mosul."

"But as they always do, the soldiers will come back from that, and they will do what they can do best to take care of those who have fallen today and that is to see this very important mission through to successful completion."

"That's what we owe you, the American people, and that's what we owe the people of Iraq. And that is exactly what we shall do."

"Thank you, May God bless America, and may God preserve peace in Iraq."

## Marez: Battalion feels loss

MAREZ, FROM PAGE 5

Sgt. Evan Byler, of the 276th, struck a mine on one of the concrete bomb shelters. He was eating chicken tenders and macaroni when the bomb hit. The blast knocked him out of his chair. When the smoke cleared, Byler took off his shirt and wrapped it around a seriously wounded soldier.

Byler held the bloody shirt in his hand, not quite sure what to do with it.

"It's not the first close call I have had here," said Byler, a Fauquier County, Va., resident who survived a blast from an improvised explosive device while riding in a vehicle earlier this year.

Byler started walking back to his base when he spotted a soldier collapse from shock on the side of the road. Byler and Lt. Shawn Otto, also of the 276th, put the grieving soldier on a passing pickup truck.

The 276th, with about 500 troops, had made it a year without losing a soldier and is preparing to return home in about a month.

"We didn't make it. We almost made it to the end without getting somebody killed," Otto said.

At least two other soldiers with the 276th were injured, but it was not clear how serious their wounds are.

Maj. James Zollar, the unit's acting commander, spoke to more than a dozen of his officers in voice tight with emotion. He urged them to keep their troops focused on their missions.

Zollar eventually turned the emergency meeting over to Chaplain Eddie Barnett. He led the group in prayer.

"Help us now, God, in this time of this very tragic circumstance," Barnett said. "We pray for your healing upon our wounded soldiers."

The heads hung low. The soldiers trudged outside. They had work to do.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,304 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,021 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia,

three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,166 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 91 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ 91 new deaths reported by the military.

■ No new identifications reported.



## News from the North Pole

SANTA INDICATES THAT THE FOLLOWING BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD THIS YEAR AND WILL SOON BE RECEIVING A PERSONALIZED NOTE FROM SANTA!



Isaac Adams  
Victoria Adams  
Derek Alemany  
Christina Almaro  
Dustin Anderson  
Hannah Anderson  
Lauren Apo  
Tasha Archibald  
Tanya Archibald  
Talya Archibald  
Chandra Bark  
Anthony Barton  
Christopher Bender  
Erin Bender  
Vanessa Braun  
Jamee Brower  
Kayla Carter  
Emily Cissell  
Quartney Cohen  
Caryl Cohen  
Nia Cohen  
Chanelle Cohen  
Mia Conrad  
Tucker Curry  
Maya Degenhart  
Carson Degenhart  
D'Artagnon Dussault  
Trent Dussault  
David Ebbs  
Michael Ebbs  
Keshawn Ferguson  
Alexis Ferguson  
Gus Fields  
Shailyn Finnegan  
Barak Finnegan  
Jacob Finnegan  
Joshua Finnegan  
Brianna Fraher  
William Fraher  
Zarius Gardner  
Thomas Garner  
Zoey Goris  
Caitlin Grace  
Alex Grace  
Bethany Grace  
Lindsay Gray  
James Griffith  
Alex Hammond  
Joey Hammond  
William Harris  
Tim Harrison  
Cody Hartman  
Alison Hartman  
Michael Jackson  
Dan Miguel Janolo  
Ethon Johns  
Lucas Johnson

Ann Johnson  
Ireland Johnson  
Chris Klimczak  
Samantha Klimczak  
Ben Klimczak  
Alex Levine  
Daisy Longobardi  
Chantal Longobardi  
John Lopez  
Sara Lopez  
Heather Marholz  
B.J. Mellott  
Samantha Munoz  
Neely O'Grady  
Dundrey Peoples  
Tessa Pirkola  
Lyla Pirkola  
Joshua Price  
Abigail Price  
Shannon Provost  
Cory Reed  
Trenton Riggs  
Evan Riggs  
Keegan Riley  
McKenna Riley  
Nathaniel Riley  
Jasmyr Rosser  
Deanna Saccone  
Ian Sellers  
Noah Sharpley  
David Shekey  
Nathan Shekey  
Brandon Shields  
Grant Sii  
Leeza Solomon  
Katrina Stebbins  
Raynard Taylor  
Asha Taylor  
Megan Thompson  
Marc Thorne  
Michael Torres  
Ashley Torres  
Lilian Trevino  
Thomas Valenzuela  
Lexy VanderPoel  
Alexis Villarreal  
Breah Villarreal  
Jayla Weaver  
J.J. Weaver  
Jalen Wells  
Lauren Zapata  
Denise Zapata  
Madison  
Victoria  
Lauren  
Aiden  
Isaac

Cassie  
Veronica  
Nathan  
Samuel  
Mariah  
Ashlan  
Allison  
Derrick  
Alejandra  
Huter  
Madison  
Liam  
Adrianna  
Jennifer  
Evan  
Kourtney  
Jamil  
Collin  
Taylor  
Lydia  
Alexis  
Alex  
Nathaniel  
Zachary  
Summer  
Jasmine  
Cassandra  
Armando  
Kaleila  
Gabrielle  
Ashley  
Abigail  
Destany  
Dilan  
Adriana  
Havanna  
Shelby  
Lindsey  
Ben  
Clarissa  
Mikayla  
Kenan  
West Ruislip School  
Mrs. Weiland's 1st grade  
Jessie Beck  
Emily Caverly  
Emma Crowers  
Brandon Cummings  
Nicholas Dauksys  
Christian Fish  
George Ochoa  
Carolyn Olmsted  
Kristi Pricolo  
Nicholas Quigley  
McKenzie Walsh  
Aaron  
Christina

Rainbow Elementary  
School  
Lindsey Alcorjan  
Gabby Adeoti  
Jessica Czarnecki  
Dushaune Duffy  
Stephanie Kather  
Tyler Kittell  
Ginette Kronk  
Bekah Ann Lathery  
Catrin Phillips  
Cody Schultz  
Brenna  
Sebastian  
Felicity  
Jeannine  
Page  
Tevin  
Luigi  
Menwith Hill CDC  
Vanessa Almanzor  
Christina Belcher  
Abigail Belcher  
Aaron Bell  
Tiana Bell  
Jameesha Bentley  
Chase Capoemian  
Deklan Clay  
Lewis Dargan  
Andrew DiFranco  
Annaliese Fleet  
Colleen Gammell  
Lauren Gonzales  
Jasinea Gray  
Kellin Hodgen  
Emily Hojnowski  
Andrew Kelly  
Natriela Lopez-Cuzman  
Keanu Lyons  
Mariah McCreary  
Emily McNabb  
Julia Meadows  
Tony Meadows  
Ryan Moore  
Daniel Morales  
Michael Mulcahy  
Savannah Quinn  
Sean Skahan  
Jasiah Smith  
Sean Wilhelm  
Ben Wilson  
Shawn Wilson  
Thomas Zimmerman

Aviano Elementary  
Mrs. Johnson's 123  
class  
Joey Dietege  
Donte Galloup  
Katelyn Grueber  
Brandon Gutierrez  
Victoria Howerin  
Ciara Janas  
Alana Lewendowski  
Rusty Lym  
Justyne Metcalf  
Jacob Ryan  
Dominic Shalma  
Douglas Steventon  
Dennis Takashima  
Marjis Traylor  
Khambre Young  
Boebingen Elementary  
Mrs. Taylor's 2nd grade  
Rick  
Connor D.  
Emma  
Holly  
Bethany  
Kevin  
Matthew  
Justin  
Connor J.  
Julia  
Max  
Jacob  
Mackenzie  
Dennis  
Jack  
Alecs  
Bailey  
James van Dierendonck  
Elementary School  
Mrs. Schubert's 2nd  
grade  
Jackie Armstrong  
Rachel Barahona  
John Bridges  
Alex Broome  
Caterina Cougha  
Sean Cruz  
Jaylon Jones  
Kiana Keys  
James Matthews  
Devin Shoemaker  
Cassandra Verzen  
Brendon Wade  
Andre

## IN THE WORLD

# Nations agree to united security in Mediterranean

BY JAMEY KEATEN  
The Associated Press

PARIS — Defense ministers and leading military officials from 10 European and North African nations agreed Tuesday to step up security cooperation in the Mediterranean basin, choosing to focus first on improving maritime surveillance.

It was the first time that the so-called "5 plus 5" group of nations took on issues like curbing the flow of drugs and illegal immigrants toward Europe, fighting terrorism and joining forces to brace for natural disasters in the region.

"We must face jointly a certain number of challenges — the fight against terrorism, against the flow of various traffic and against ecological catastrophes," Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie of France said at a joint news conference after the two-hour meeting.

The initiatives, to begin next spring, are to focus first on maritime surveillance and how militaries can boost their roles in air security and natural disaster response, the group said in a joint statement.

The 10 nations plan to carry out joint military exercises to prepare for oil spills at sea, exchange experts' views on maritime surveillance and add a military role to border controls.

The ministers said delegations of military experts from the region would meet twice to oversee cooperation, and the ministers are to meet annually to check up on the efforts.

The group, composed of five North African nations and five European nations on the southern rim of the Mediterranean, was set up in 1990 as a means of holding an "informal dialogue" on concerns considered vital to the region.

Foreign ministers of the group met in Algeria last month, tackling issues such as illegal immigration and terrorism.

The forum is one of several that aims to bridge the gap between Europe and its neighbors on the other side of the Mediterranean. It aims to contribute to the security and economic integration of the sometimes volatile region and push forward a larger process of cooperation between Europe and its neighbors to the south.

The "5 plus 5" group is made up of France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Malta on the European side and Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya, all North African nations.

The group was stalled for years, partly because of internal turmoil in Algeria, where violence from an Islamic insurgency left an estimated 120,000 dead, and partly because of sanctions on Libya.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder talk Tuesday on an InterCity Express high speed train on their way to Göttingen in the northern German village of Schleswig.

## Announcement of train deal caps Putin, Schroeder talks

BY TONY CZUJKA

The Associated Press

SCHLESWIG, Germany — German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a \$2 billion deal Tuesday to bring German high-speed trains to Russia's national railway.

The agreement highlighted Germany's push to expand business with Russia.

Schröder was intent on turning the meeting with Putin into a success, despite recent tensions between Moscow and the West over the Ukrainian vote and Sunday's auction of Yukos' Yuganskneftegaz unit to a previously unknown company.

"Trade between Germany and Russia is developing very dynamically," Schröder said. "Russia is an enormously important market in which German

companies must be present."

Under the train deal, Germany's Siemens AG will provide Russia with 60 InterCity Express trains, initially to run between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The trains will be partially built in Russia, and the agreement includes an option for 90 more trains, Siemens chief executive Heinrich von Pierer said.

Schröder gave Putin a firsthand look at the trains Tuesday, taking him on a 70-mile trip from Hamburg to the northern town of Schleswig for the final stop in two days of official German-Russian talks.

Schröder and Putin met at a 16th-century castle near the Danish border where Czar Peter the Great once stopped by during a military campaign.

Like other recent meetings between German and Russian leaders, Putin's visit was designed to show that ties between him and Schröder extend beyond formalities to friendship.

### New Potter book coming

LONDON — The sixth novel in J.K. Rowling's blockbuster Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," will go on sale in Britain and America on July 16, publishers said Tuesday.

Rowling, 39, noted that while she is pregnant with her third child, she has had the time "needed to tinker with the manuscript to my satisfaction and I am as happy as I have ever been with the end result. I only hope you feel it was worth the wait when you finally read it."

### Twins swap for escape

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — An 18-year-old inmate, serving a 10-month sentence for assault and robbery, walked out of the Kronoberg Jail, located in the same building that houses the headquarters for Stockholm's police department, undetected on Monday after a visit by his twin brother. The two siblings, neither of whom were named, managed to switch their outfits without anyone noticing.

Faced with the prospect of spending the night in jail, his brother admitted the ruse to prison guards. The visiting brother was questioned and released, but could face charges of aiding in a prison escape.

From The Associated Press

## Live on the Economy?

Did you know that Stars and Stripes delivers to addresses on the local economy?

We are expanding our off-base delivery all the time.

Call today and find out if you live within our delivery area.



Get the news that affects your life and the lives of your family. Every day.

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
Your Hometown Newspaper

customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil  
CIV: +49 6151-601-262 • DSN 349-8262

Pentagon Car Sales salutes the men and women of the US Armed Forces serving in Iraq. Our thoughts and prayers are with you for a speedy and safe return to home and family. May God bless you and the United States of America

We would like to show our support by sponsoring Free Stars & Stripes newspapers for Operation Iraqi Freedom service members. Available at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center & the General Von Steuben Hotel, Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

**Pentagon Car Sales**

www.PentagonCarSales.com



# Jewish settlers in Gaza touching nerve with Holocaust reference

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Some Jewish settlers said Tuesday that they will be wearing orange Star of David patches — similar to those the Nazis forced Jews to pin to their lapels — in an escalation of protests against a planned Gaza withdrawal.

The campaign stirred an uproar in Israel, which gave refuge to large numbers of Holocaust survivors after World War II. About 250,000 survivors still live in Israel, and mention of the Nazi genocide in a public forum remains an extremely sensitive subject.

Settler activists in Gaza said they would distribute the orange stars this weekend, although a handful of Gaza residents displayed the badges on Tuesday.

"We want to shock the nation," Miriam Freiman, a 67-year-old Holocaust survivor who lives in the Neve Dekalim settlement in Gaza.

They succeeded quickly, touching a raw nerve. Images of a Gaza woman wearing the star on her

lapel ran on the front page of an Israeli newspaper, and radio shows discussed the settler campaign on Nov. 30.

Former Israeli Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau denounced the initiative. "Spare us this return to the nightmares of the past and leave the Holocaust in its proper place," he said. "The deliberate murder of 6 million Jews is such a sacred and significant thing that it cannot be compared with absolutely anything else in the world."

Lau is a Holocaust survivor. The official Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial center urged the settlers to refrain from using the stars. The Simon Wiesenthal Center, a human rights group that focuses on Holocaust issues, accused the settlers of cheapening the memory of Holocaust victims.

"The Nazi term 'resettlement' was to take Jews from their homes to be mass murdered. They're trying to create imagery that this is the same resettlement," said Efraim Zuroff, head of the Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office, who himself lives in a West Bank settlement. "We're not headed to Auschwitz, with all due respect."



Supporters of the Israeli settler movement join arms Monday following a news conference in Jerusalem. Israeli settler leaders on Monday backed a call to resist the planned evacuation of settlements in the Gaza Strip.

## Arafat successor calls for peace

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Marking the end of mourning for Yasser Arafat, his emerging successor said Tuesday that he remains committed to a peace deal with Israel that would produce a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as a capital.

Mahmoud Abbas spoke at Arafat's old headquarters, to which the Palestinian leader was confined for nearly three years until just days before his Nov. 11 death at a Paris hospital. Tuesday marked the end of the 40-day Muslim mourning period for Arafat.

Abbas, the PLO chief, is the front-runner in Jan. 9 elections to replace Arafat as Palestinian Authority president, which would seal his status as Arafat's successor.

"We are standing here today to reiterate to the world that we are committed to the choice of just peace, to achieve the rights of our people," Abbas said.

From The Associated Press

# Digestive organs transplant a first at China hospital

BY ELAINE KURTENBACH  
The Associated Press

SHANGHAI, China — A Chinese woman has received a new intestinal tract and four other organs in the first successful transplant of its kind in Asia, a Shanghai hospital said Tuesday.

Lu Xiao, a 38-year-old woman from Shanghai, suffered from polyps that covered her entire digestive system, and some had turned cancerous, the Shanghai Ruijin Hospital said.

In a 14-hour-long operation on Nov. 14 that involved 30 doctors and nurses, Lu received a new intestinal tract, stomach, spleen, liver and pancreas, said Wang Min, a hospital spokeswoman.

All the organs came from one donor, whose identity could not be disclosed because the family requested confidentiality, Wang said.

Lu was taken off a respirator two days after the operation and has been recovering well, Wang said. "She's able to take water and other fluids now," she added.

So far, Lu has not suffered from any organ rejection. However, the risk of future rejection or infection remains.

It was unclear why the hospital waited over a month to announce the operation.

Multiple organ transplants involving the intestinal tract initially were more common among children, but in recent years the success rate for such transplants among adults has improved.

A report on state-run television showed doctors handling bags of blood and surgeons at work in the operating theater. "Only about 20 adults around the world have received this kind of surgery, many of them in the United States, and only one in Europe. This is the first time for Asia," said Li Hongwei, the hospital's director.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

## WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...



Please visit the site at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com) and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



## IN THE STATES

## Holiday discounts expected

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZO  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Retailers are expected to increase discounting in the final days before Christmas after a late-buying binge failed to materialize during the last weekend before the holiday.

"You will really see some dramatic desperation discounting" this week, said Burt Flickinger III, managing partner at Strategic Resource Group, a New York-based industry consultant.

Such potential discounting is fueling worries that industry profits could be hurt in the fourth quarter. Flickinger estimated that profit margins will be cut by 3 percent to 5 percent in the fourth quarter as a result.

Merchants needed a hefty sales surge this past weekend to recoup lost business after seeing a slow start to a holiday selling season that never gathered steam.

Now, they'll have to rely even more heavily on procrastinators during the final days before Christmas, as well as post-holiday sales. Merchants also hope their bottom lines will be boosted by the redemption of gift cards, which are only recorded as sales when they are redeemed.

ShopperTrak, which tracks sales at 30,000 retail outlets, reported on Monday that total sales fell 3.3 percent for Saturday and Sunday, compared with the same two days last year.

Luxury stores — which have enjoyed robust sales as their

well-heeled customers have benefited from the economy's recovery — had the best performance over the weekend, despite offering only selected discounts.

In contrast, mid-priced merchants — appealing to customers more vulnerable to higher heating costs — are being forced to

pull in customers with big discounts and expanded hours.

J.C. Penney Co. Inc., for example, will be opening at 7 a.m. from Wednesday through Friday, offering deals on jewelry and coats.

The Saturday before Christmas is traditionally the busiest day of the year for merchants.



Holiday shoppers crowd the sidewalk along Michigan Avenue in Chicago on the final weekend before Christmas. Retailers are trying to make up for a lack of sales this past weekend.

AP



## Study: Teen drug abuse declining

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Youth smoking and drug abuse declined again this year, concludes a federal study that also found marked progress over the last decade in persuading teens to avoid cigarettes and illicit substances.

The smoking rate among younger teens is half what it was in the mid-1990s, and drug use by that group is down by one-third, says the University of Michigan study, done for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and released Tuesday. Less dramatic strides have been made among older teens.

Altogether, gains in 2004 over 2003 were modest. Researchers were bothered by increases in the use of inhalants such as glue, aerosols and the pain-control narcotic OxyContin. Use of most other drugs declined or held steady.

This was the eighth consecutive year that smoking rates among surveyed teens dropped.

"We know that young people have come to see cigarette smoking as more dangerous, while they also have become less accepting of cigarette use, and these changes continued into 2004," said Lloyd Johnston, lead researcher for the Monitoring the Future study.

**GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING**  
SPECIAL OFFER! Subscribe to STARS AND STRIPES before December 31, 2004  
and receive an **EXTRA! EXTRA!** large STARS AND STRIPES gift mug!

Don't miss daily developments on issues that affect you the most — Deployments, Local Happenings, Military Transformation, DoDDs Schools and so much more.

Special introductory rates offer substantial savings on the cover price!

Three months: \$45.50 (Save 12.5%) Six months: \$84.50 (Save 18.75%) Twelve months: \$156 (Save 25%)

Contact your STARS AND STRIPES customer service representative today:

tel: 06155 601 438 or DSN 349-8438. Email: customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Mention promo code: FREEMUG to receive your STARS AND STRIPES gift mug.

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
Your Hometown Newspaper

\*Gift mug offer valid only while supplies last. Special introductory rates available to new Home Delivery subscribers only. Home delivery not available in some areas; contact your STARS AND STRIPES customer service representative for more details.

# Drug makers work on 1-pill AIDS treatment

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON  
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — In an effort to make medication regimens easier for HIV-positive patients, two drug companies have announced plans to collaborate on the first all-in-one, one-day pill to treat the infection.

Currently, the best AIDS treatment requires patients to take two to four pills a day. Less than a decade ago, many patients had to take 25 to 30 pills a day, often at precise times and under specific conditions such as with food, making it extremely difficult for patients to stick to the complex schedule. Missing doses makes it easier for the virus to mutate and become resistant to medication.

In the first collaboration by competing AIDS drug makers, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Gilead Sciences Inc. announced Monday that they have formed a joint venture to test and market a single pill combining three widely used medicines.

Because the three individual drugs already are on the market, the once-a-day combination could be approved and on sale as early as the second half of 2006, said David Rosen, a spokesman for Bristol-Myers Squibb.

"To have it all in a single pill is terrific," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute

of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The combination pill will be made up of Sustiva, made by Bristol-Myers Squibb, and two AIDS drugs made by Gilead Sciences: Viread and Entinavir.

The latter two drugs are members of the same class of AIDS drugs, but they block copying of the AIDS virus at two different points early in its replication cycle. Sustiva is from a different class of drugs and attacks the virus later in the cycle.

The pill is for people diagnosed HIV-positive who have never taken HIV medicines before.

The two companies will have to find a way to combine the component drugs so that the single pill is absorbed the same way, has identical effects, lasts in the body as long and has the same shelf life, said Robert Lipper, vice president of biopharmaceuticals research and development at Bristol-Myers.

The three drugs, which are already becoming the treatment of choice, together cost \$900 to \$1,000 a month. Rosen said it is too soon to say how much the single pill will cost.

The combination would not include a protease inhibitor, a class of drug that has been standard in recent years but that also carries many side effects.

Associated Press writer Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee contributed to this story.

# NH stops Aleve drug study

## Risks included heart attacks, strokes

BY PAUL RECER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An Alzheimer's disease prevention trial was suspended after researchers said there were more heart attacks and strokes among patients taking naproxen, an over-the-counter pain reliever in use for 28 years and commonly known under the brand name Aleve.

The study, involving some 2,500 patients, was to test whether naproxen or Celebrex, both pain relievers, could reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease among healthy elderly patients who were at an increased risk of the disease.

Officials at the National Institutes of Health said the study was suspended after three years when it was found that patients taking naproxen had a 50 percent greater incidence of cardiovascular events — heart attack or stroke — than patients taking placebo.

Another factor, officials said, was the announcement last week that advertising for Celebrex was being halted after a study found that high doses of the drug were associated with an in-

crease in heart attack risk. Preliminary data from the Alzheimer's study, however, did not indicate an increased risk of heart attack or stroke for Celebrex, officials said.

Leslyn Crawford, acting commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, acknowledged Tuesday that the conflicting studies are confusing and call for continued evaluation. For now, she recommended following the dosage recommendations for the drugs.

"Any drug taken long enough and at high enough dosage can cause some difficulty," Crawford said on NBC's "Today."

"It would be premature to say what we're going to do with either one of these drugs, Celebrex or Aleve," he said. "However, we will keep all regulator options open and make some determinations as quickly as possible based on the data."

Celebrex, a prescription drug, and naproxen are both commonly used to treat the joint pain of arthritis. Naproxen has been approved for sale, first as a prescription and then as an over-the-counter drug, since 1976. Celebrex is in the same

class — COX2 enzyme inhibitors — as Vioxx, an arthritis drug recently taken off the market by its manufacturer after it was linked to an increase in heart attack and stroke.

Officials acknowledged that the implications for the continued use of naproxen are not clear and will require further study.

Dr. Sandra Kweider of the FDA said the NIH study was the first to show that naproxen might increase the risk of heart attack or stroke and that the findings are "confusing." No immediate action, however, is expected toward naproxen, she said.

"We are not contemplating any specific regulatory action over the next few days," Kweider said. "We will be working with the NIH to try to understand the data better and determine what will be appropriate from there."

Patients who routinely take naproxen should follow the drug package instructions carefully, Kweider said, including the directions to not take it for more than 10 days, and to consult a doctor if pain persists.

Efforts to obtain reaction Monday night produced no answers at phone numbers for Bayer Healthcare, the maker of Aleve.

A Special Holiday Wish for the Troops

Merry Christmas!

STARS AND STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

Marion Bergan inserts a needle in her face of Paula Scardamalia during a Dec. 10 facial acupuncture treatment in Albany, N.Y.



# Youth-seekers turning to facial acupuncture

BY MICHAEL HILL  
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Paula Scardamalia has pins in her face — nine tiny ones angling out near her eyes, mouth and jaw.

The pins were poked in to tighten chin skin and erase lines on the 52-year-old woman's face. The practice, called facial acupuncture, is becoming popular as a sort of holistic alternative to trying to turn back time through toxins or surgery.

"This has got to be healthier than Botox or a surgical facelift," said Scardamalia, the little needles wagging slightly.

Interest in facial acupuncture might be connected to the rising popularity of alternative medicine, or to society's obsession with youth and beauty, or to the mass of aging baby boomers. Whatever the reason, acupuncturists report a wave of interest in the ancient Chinese practice.

Acupuncturists typically stimu-

late selected points on the body with hair-thin pins to promote good health and alleviate pain. They view it as correcting energy imbalances along the body's "meridians," which carry an energy flow called qi (pronounced "chee") — a concept many mainstream physicians say lacks scientific evidence.

In facial acupuncture, needles are usually stuck in wrinkles and saggy to bring more blood, qi and muscle tone to an area. The theory is that a healthy face is a better-looking face.

Marion Bergan, the licensed acupuncturist who treated Scardamalia for a demonstration, offers "facial rejuvenation acupuncture" in addition to her medical acupuncture.

Most of Bergan's facial customers are women in their 50s and 60s. But Wakefield said her practice gets a fair share of men, too.

"They realize in order to keep their jobs and to get jobs, they need to look younger," Wakefield said.



# Suspect's husband offers sympathy

## Kan. man says he believed accused wife who claimed baby was theirs

BY HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH  
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — When Kevin Montgomery was presented with a newborn child, he said he believed his wife's story — that the girl was theirs. He had no idea, he said, that an eight-months-pregnant woman had just been strangled in her home, her baby cut from her womb.

The couple named the baby girl Abigail, and did the first thing any proud parents would: drove her home so they could show her off.

But the next day, Lisa Montgomery, 36, was charged with kidnapping resulting in death for allegedly strangling Bobbie Jo Stinnett and taking the baby.

Lisa Montgomery appeared Monday before a packed courtroom in Kansas City, Kan., where her attorney refused to waive her right to preliminary and identity

hearings. Both hearings have been scheduled for Thursday morning.

"I had no idea," Kevin Montgomery said outside the courthouse. He said he knew nothing about the grisly allegations against his wife, and he has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

A funeral for Stinnett, 23, was planned for Tuesday.

The baby, named Victoria Jo by her father, Zeb Stinnett, spent the weekend in a Topeka hospital before being released Monday.

"When we received her, she was in pretty good shape," said hospital spokeswoman Carol Wheeler. According to authorities, Kevin Montgomery picked up his wife and the infant in Topeka last week, and drove about 40 miles south to Melvern, Kan., where the couple lived — showing off the child. Authorities said Lisa Montgomery had told family and friends that she was preg-



Kevin Montgomery, center, speaks to reporters Monday outside the Robert J. Dole Federal Courthouse in Kansas City, Kan., after the first court appearance of his wife, Lisa Montgomery, who is charged with kidnapping resulting in the death of Bobbie Jo Stinnett.

nant.

Authorities have said Lisa Montgomery gained access to Stinnett's Skidmore, Mo., home by expressing interest in Stinnett's dogs — rat terriers which

she raised.

Stinnett and Lisa Montgomery were photographed together at a dog show months before last week's attack, a woman who attended the show said.

# Doctors: Tiniest surviving baby OK

BY JOHN BIEMER  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — When Rumaissa Rahman was born, she weighed just 8.6 ounces and was no bigger than a cell phone.

Three months later, doctors say she's doing "extremely well" and will be introduced Tuesday by Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., as the world's tiniest surviving baby. Rumaissa was born 1.3 ounces lighter than the previous record holder in 1989.

Rumaissa, whose name means "white as milk" in India, was born at the hospital on Sept. 19 along with her fraternal twin sister, Hibba, who weighed 1 pound 4 ounces. Hibba's name means "gift from God."

Their mother, Mahababeen Shaik, 23, of Alton, Pa., gave birth by Caesarian section after 25 weeks and six days of gestation (a typical, full-term pregnancy is about 40 weeks). Shaik entered a hospital early because she had developed severe pre-eclampsia, high blood pressure, which was affecting her health as well as Rumaissa's activity in the womb.

Shaik and her husband, Mohammed Abdul Rahman, 32, both originally from Hyderabad, India, could not hold their daughters until their second month because the babies were hooked to IVs and were inside incubators. The babies were conceived naturally, hospital officials said, and are the first children for the couple, who were married in India in January.

Studies suggest that Rumaissa, who now weighs about 2 pounds and 10 ounces, will develop normally, according to Dr. Jonathan Muraskas, professor of pediatrics and neonatal-perinatal medicine at Loyola University's Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine. Ultrasounds have shown that Rumaissa's head is normal and there is no bleeding in her brain, a common complication that can put a baby at risk for cerebral palsy.

The previous record holder for world's smallest baby, Madeline Mann, goes to high school in Hoffman Estates, Ill., and celebrated her 15th birthday in June. She also was born at Loyola after her mother developed pre-eclampsia.

# Near 100 mph winds create havoc in Colorado

BY ERIN GARTNER  
The Associated Press

DENVER — Wind gusting to nearly 100 mph swept across Colorado on Monday, forcing skiers off the slopes, closing highways and peeling the roof off a high school gym while a basketball team practiced inside.

No serious injuries were reported, but the gusty weather dominated everything from driving to walking for much of northern and central Colorado.

Gusts reached 90 mph in Breckenridge and forced the ski resort to shut down a chair lift.

"We generally get pretty high winds before a storm moves in," resort spokeswoman Emily Jacob said. "We really pay close attention to that. It's a safety concern for us."

The National Weather Service issued a high-wind warning along the heavily populated Front Range after 95 mph winds were reported in Superior. Gusts reached 98 mph at Carter Lake near Berthoud and ranged from 79 mph to 85 mph in Louisville, Boulder and Golden.



Ken Wicklund cleans up the remains of a spruce tree that was blown down by high winds Monday in Longmont, Colo. Wicklund, a city forester, said the tree was about 50 years old.

LONGMONT (COLO.) DAILY TIMES-CALLER

At Monarch High School in Louisville, several students escaped injury when a portion of the gym roof was torn off. The school was closed for winter vacation, though basketball players practicing inside had to be evacuated.

The wind overturned a small plane at a Denver-area airport

and knocked an empty tractor-trailer on its side in Littleton. State Patrol Trooper Don Mosman said. The driver was treated for minor injuries.

Trees were blown down elsewhere in Louisville and a roof under construction at a new recreation center was peeled off, police

said.

Authorities closed Colorado Highway 93 near the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant northwest of Denver for about an hour after winds knocked down a power line. The winds eased as a cold front began to arrive.

# Holocaust survivors, U.S. settle claims GIs stole Jews' property

BY CATHERINE WILSON  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The U.S. government has agreed to settle with Holocaust survivors who claim that American Army officers during World War II plundered a trainload of family treasures that had been seized by the Nazis. The families and the Justice Department told a judge Monday that they have agreed in principle to a financial award over the "Gold Train" but the exact terms have not been worked out.

The lawsuit sought up to \$100,000 each

for as many as 30,000 Hungarian Jews and their survivors.

U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz told attorneys to deliver a package detailing a worldwide settlement by Feb. 18.

"This agreement is a step closer to the goal we all share, a measure of justice for these Holocaust victims and their families," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

In 1945, in the waning days of the war, the Nazis sent 24 train cars toward Germany carrying gold, silver, paintings, Oriental rugs, furs and other household goods

seized from Hungarian Jews.

Nazis, Hungarians and Austrians stole the train along the way.

The train was then intercepted by U.S. forces, and American officers helped themselves to china, silverware and artwork for their homes and offices and at work. An advisory commission appointed by then-President Clinton.

The train and cargo worth an estimated \$50 million to \$120 million were shrouded in official secrecy until a presidential commission on Holocaust assets detailed it in

1999.

"No way the money we would get would help with our losses. We were not even thinking about it. We just want to have closure on this," said Alex Moskovic of Hobe Sound, one of three Hungarian Jews who attended Moskow's hearing.

However, New York University professor Ronald Zweig, who wrote a book on the train and served as the government's expert, said that the Gold Train has taken on mythic proportions and that the Army made "a very serious effort" to protect the contents.



Jenna Hamilton stands in the parking lot of the Carousel Mall in Syracuse, N.Y., on Dec. 15. Hamilton considers herself to be in the "search and destroy" classification when it comes to finding a parking spot. She roams the aisles, cruising endlessly until the perfect spot opens up.

AP



## Parking lots harbor 4 'species' of stressed-out holiday drivers

BY WILLIAM KATES

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — John Hrynyk emerged from his car at the Carousel Center mall after nabbing a parking space 100 feet from an entrance.

The 55-year-old scrap yard owner admits he's the type to slowly prowls the mall parking lot until he finds a spot close to the building. "I always look for the closest spot to the door, and 90 percent of the time I find one," he said.

In other words, he's a classic "search and destroy" driver.

Connecticut-based Response Insurance surveyed its drivers and identified what it says are the four main species of mall parkers: "search and destroyers," "lay and wait," "stalkers" and "see it and take it."

But in the asphalt jungle, it turns out, it's the least aggressive who are getting the last laugh.

Search and destroyers roam the aisles, cruising endlessly for the perfect spot. Lay and wait parkers position themselves at the end of an aisle and wait for a space to open up in what they start to believe is their territory. Stalkers, the most predatory, slowly follow shoppers leaving the store back to their parking spot.

The three methods increase the risk of situations that can lead to stress or conflict. Hrynyk was lucky

he didn't run into another search and destroy driver waiting for the same spot, said Ray Palermo, a spokesman for Response Insurance.

"It's not like road rage, but it can cause a lot of stress nevertheless," he said.

The favored method is to see it and take it, where shoppers don't care how far they have to walk. The company said it's less stressful and helps drivers save the most time.

Even the AAA likes this option. On its list of tips for surviving holiday driving, the automobile association advises people to "play the outfield. Outlying areas have more spaces, lighter traffic and a lower risk of collision."

The advice comes at a time when parking lots may be crisscrossed with last-minute shoppers. The National Retail Federation estimated that up to 20 percent of holiday sales would occur the week before Christmas.

Jena Hamilton, 24, gets irritated by the lay and waiters and the stalkers.

"You want to get your car warmed up, everything adjusted. Then you see your car in the rearview mirror with its blinker on, and a line of cars waiting behind them," Hamilton said. "It can be nerve-racking, as if holiday shopping weren't stressful enough."

## Report: Attack on LNG tankers would be deadly

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A terror attack on a tanker delivering liquefied natural gas at a U.S. port could set off a fire so hot it would burn skin and damage buildings nearly a mile away, government scientists say in a report expected to influence where new multibillion-dollar terminals will be built.

The report from a government nuclear weapons lab, a 160-page unclassified version of which was obtained Monday by The Associated Press, characterizes an LNG tanker spill from a terror attack as a low probability. If successful, however, it would become "a high consequence event" that could produce massive injuries and property damage, the report said.

The yearlong study by scientists at Sandia National Laboratory, a premier federal research facility, provides the most detailed analysis to date of the potential public safety impact of a terrorist attack on an LNG transport tanker.

While the report does not recommend prohibiting tankers from carrying LNG through heavily populated areas, it says those shipments should occur only after "the most rigorous deterrent measures" are in place to reduce the probability of an attack.

The tankers, each of which carries up to 30 million gallons of LNG, arrive every few days at four U.S. terminals: Everett, Mass.; Cove Point, Md.; Elba Island, Ga., and Lake Charles, La. All are expanding as regulators weigh the merits of putting more than three dozen more such facilities at U.S. ports, many in urban areas.

In its minus-260 degrees liquid state, LNG cannot explode and is not flammable. If a missile or explosive should tear a hole in a

tanker or a storage tank, however, the escaping liquid would be transformed instantaneously into a gas and probably would ignite in a massive fire.

The Sandia report said terrorists, using readily available weapons and technology, could blast a 10-foot hole into the side of an LNG tanker.

The assessment evaluates a range of scenarios that would result in release of millions of gallons of LNG from a transport tanker.

The scenarios include a takeover of a vessel by an insider or hijacker, external attacks using explosive-laden boats, triggered explosions or rocket-propelled grenades or missiles.

Detailed discussions of specific threats were included only in the classified version of the report, but the unclassified version examined the general impact such an attack and LNG fire on water would have to people within a mile of the spill.

"What we've learned is that we can significantly reduce the likelihood of a terrorist attack occurring with security planning and mitigation," said Mark Maddox, a deputy assistant secretary at the Energy Department, which commissioned the study.

Even with many details left out of the unclassified version, the report describes a harrowing potential for disaster if a terror attack were to succeed in releasing millions of gallons of LNG from a double-hulled vessel that typically carries more than 30 million gallons of the frosty liquid fuel.

The Sandia scientists identified "several credible" terror scenarios that the report said would result in at least one — possibly as many as three — of a tanker's cargo tanks being breached. That would ignite a pool of fire to spread several hundred yards in all directions, the report said.



AP

An LNG tanker leaves Boston Harbor in January after off-loading its cargo. Terrorists have the ability to blast a 10-foot hole into the side of an LNG tanker that could unleash a massive spill and fire so hot it would burn skin and damage buildings nearly a mile away, government scientists say in a new report.

## Earn a degree while stationed in Europe

### Undergraduate

UMUC-Europe offers associate and bachelor's degrees in 16 majors and 18 minors including accounting, business administration, computer and information science, history, general studies, management studies, marketing, and psychology.

### Graduate

UMUC-Europe/Bowie State University offer master's degrees in counseling psychology, guidance and counseling, information technology, management information systems, and public administration.

Hundreds of online and on-site courses

[www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu)



University of Maryland University College Europe

Contact UMUC-Europe headquarters at DSN 370-6762, CIV +49-(0)6221-3780, e-mail [edstudnet\\_je@ed.umuc.edu](mailto:edstudnet_je@ed.umuc.edu), or visit your UMUC-Europe field representative.



## OPINION

# 'Buying American' will lower trade deficit

BY THEA LEE

**S**hould Americans buy American? In the holiday shopping season and throughout the year, consumers should take the responsibility to be informed and aware of basic facts about what they are buying — how and where the goods they buy are produced.

Furthermore, they should give some thought to the impact of their purchases on the U.S. and global economy, on decent jobs and on the environment.

That isn't to say, however, that consumers can bear the entire burden of social responsibility: governments must set and enforce appropriate rules to protect workers, public health and the environment; and corporations have a responsibility to obey the laws and be socially and environmentally responsible.

But consumers can and do make a difference, and they should welcome the power they hold at the cash register. Deliberate and thoughtful consumer purchases can help strengthen the bargaining power of workers, fighting for decent and humane working conditions, and send a powerful message to corporate headquarters about the standards consumers expect for the goods and services they buy.

When consumers choose American-made products, they are supporting good jobs in their communities, as well as an expanded tax base that can fund schools, roads, research and social programs.

Manufacturing jobs have traditionally been the backbone of the American middle class, providing decent wages and benefits, but also a ripple effect in job creation throughout the economy. Each manufacturer

ing job, it turns out, is associated with two to three times as many secondary jobs as those in services or retail.

Faster productivity growth in the manufacturing sector, relative to the rest of the economy, is the foundation for noninflationary wage growth over time.

In addition, buying American is one way consumers can help stem our national borrowing binge. This year, our trade deficit — the annual excess of imports over exports — will be well over half a trillion dollars, or more than \$1 million a minute.

The October trade deficit hit an all-time high of \$55.5 billion.

We fund these expenditures by borrowing from abroad, and our national debt is now close to \$3 trillion.

These enormous and unsustainable deficits eventually will cause the dollar to fall relative to other currencies, which will make American products more competitive, but also likely will lead to higher inflation and higher interest rates. By choosing American-made products, especially big-ticket items such as cars or appliances, American consumers can help reduce our need to borrow from abroad.

In addition to seeking out American-made items, consumers should look for products and services made by union workers. The union label denotes high-quality products and services made by skilled workers who are treated fairly and decently by their employers.

Union workers earn more money, have better benefits, are more productive and have greater job security than nonunion workers. The pay differential is 27 percent for all workers, and this difference is even greater for women, African-Americans and Latinos.



It isn't always possible to buy American-made goods, even with the best of intentions. When buying goods made in other countries, consumers should also try to stay informed about working conditions, labor laws and corporate practices.

Information about workers' rights in different countries is available through several sources: The U.S. State Department publishes annual reports on human rights conditions around the world, and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Labor Organization provide detailed information on labor rights.

Watchdog groups — including the Worker

Rights Consortium, Students Against Sweatshops, the Campaign for Labor Rights, the National Labor Committee and the International Labor Rights Fund, among others — monitor corporate practices and expose egregious violations.

At the end of the day, governments, corporations and consumers all have a role to play in improving working conditions here and around the world, and in making responsible economic decisions.

When you go to the mall with your credit card, get into the true holiday spirit, and make your dollars count toward a fairer and more humane world.

Thea Lee is assistant director for international economics at the AFL-CIO labor union.

# U.S. consumers shouldn't consider products' origin

BY MARK J. PERRY

**A**FLINT, Mich. — American consumers should practice nondiscriminatory shopping this Christmas without any regard to the national origin of the products they buy.

Those consumers who do intentionally alter their holiday shopping habits to "buy American" most likely will end up worse off, and will become confused in the process.

Attempts by shoppers to shun "foreign" products during the holiday season to bring down the U.S. trade deficit won't work. And even if changes in holiday shopping were successful at lowering the trade deficit, it does not necessarily follow that our economy would be better off. Here's why.

First, in our increasingly global economy, the distinction between "foreign" and "American" goods is becoming increasingly difficult and meaningless.

With global trade at an all-time high, all "foreign" products most likely have some U.S. components, and products "made in America" typically contain foreign inputs. The automobile market clearly illustrates this point.

Are the Toyota, Mazda and Mitsubishi vehicles built in the United States by UAW workers for foreign-based automakers with both domestic and foreign parts "American" or "foreign" cars? Now that Michigan-based Ford owns Jaguar and Volvo, are those foreign-produced vehicles containing U.S.-built components really "foreign" vehicles? And does it really matter? No. In the search to find only "American" products, holiday shoppers will end up confused, and will unnecessarily limit their shopping options.

They could also end up with a higher shop-

ping bill and fewer gifts by passing up bargain-priced imports.

Second, our trade deficit is ultimately caused by the fact that national spending by American consumers, businesses and government exceeds our national income. Holiday shoppers who substitute "American" products for "foreign" gifts, without altering their overall level of consumption, will not affect our trade deficit by even \$1.

Only if we consume less and save more would our trade deficit be affected. The only effective way for holiday shoppers to cut the budget deficit would be to reduce spending, which would lead to weak December retail sales and would stall the economic recovery.

Instead of altering holiday shopping habits, consumers concerned about the trade deficit should write to members of Congress and encourage politicians to stop the growth

in deficit spending, which is one of the main reasons for our large trade deficit.

Unfortunately, those who advocate a "Buy America" strategy to promote prosperity are recycling the discredited mercantilist theory of the 1800s, which claims that: a) exports and trade surpluses are good, and b) imports and trade deficits are bad. In reality, neither of those positions is correct, and in fact, both imports and trade deficits can actually be very beneficial.

To understand this, think about how you benefit from your personal trade deficit with your local grocer.

If you import \$500 of groceries every month from your local grocery store, and your grocer buys nothing from you, you would have a monthly \$500 trade deficit with your local supermarket. Could you possibly make your family better off by buying

only \$100 worth of groceries this month to reduce your trade deficit with your grocer? If not, then altering your holiday shopping to reduce our country's trade deficit won't make you better off either.

Holiday shoppers should be thankful that they can shop in a global marketplace more conveniently, and at a lower cost this holiday season than at any other time in history.

Consumers should spend wisely on gifts to get the lowest price and the best value, but should pay no attention to labels of national origin.

Whether you're buying Mongolian cashmere, toys from China or a Turkish bathrobe, or taking a sunny Mexican holiday vacation, enjoy guilt-free Christmas shopping and traveling in a global economy, and don't worry about the trade deficit.

Mark J. Perry is an economist at the University of Michigan-Flint.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## YOUR MONEY

## Find that one great gift idea

Perfect present bears repeating

BY BELLE ELVING  
AND LIZ SEYMOUR  
The Washington Post

We once heard of a woman who gave almost everyone on her Christmas list a pair of cashmere socks: Little booties for a friend's baby, pink-striped knee-highs for a girl's niece, impeccable argyle-socks for a button-down brother, better-than-another-shawl for granny.

Her strategy may have lacked variety, but you've got to applaud its universality. The most time-consuming part of holiday shopping is figuring out what to give and where to get it. But settle on something like cashmere socks — what's not to like? — and you're halfway home.

So that's what we've looked to include in this annual gift guide. A one great-idea-fits-all solution to last-minute shopping. Gifts that mix practicality almost anyone would appreciate with charm no one could resist.

Have fun with this strategy. Giving one rubber spatula would be weird, but a bright bouquet of them in all shapes and sizes is wonderful. Our suggestions can be found in lots of stores, in many styles and at a range of prices. So even if you haven't started shopping, here's a way to get your list all wrapped up.

We couldn't resist suggesting a



**A one great-idea-fits-all solution to last-minute shopping: Clockwise from top, a rearview desk mirror, cord organizer and door stop.**

few small gifts that may seem more functional than festive. But for the hard-core home-obsessed, these items could be one of the best surprises under the tree.

**1. Colors, coordinated:** Help her on the compulsive quest for the perfect shade of sage by buying her a complete paint fan deck of all the colors from her favorite company. Many paint stores and hardware stores will sell them, for about \$15 to \$20.

**2. Perfect measurements:** Anyone wanting to hang a picture, put up a towel rack or figure out if the couch will fit would appreciate a quality tape measure. A perfect gift for the new homeowner or first-time apartment dweller.

**3. Put a stop to it:** A door that sneakily swings shut as soon as you open it is one household an-

noyance that's easy to fix: The charming rubber pup pictured above, spotted at the Container Store for \$3.99, keeps any door in place.

**4. Looking backward:** A desk that faces away from the door is supposedly bad feng shui. Put things right in a home office with this rearview mirror that affixes to a computer monitor so you can see what's going on behind your back. Sold at the Container Store for \$9.99.

**5. Major cords:** A snarl of wires under the desk or behind the TV? Help a neatnik get things straight with a cheerful little cable turtle that won a spot in the Museum of Modern Art's design collection. Widely available at home and office supply stores; this one pictured above is \$6.99 at the Container Store.

LATWP

## Ignore spammers and maybe they'll go away

BY JOHN MORAN  
The Hartford (Conn.) Courant

All the traditional signs of the holiday season are here: the festive lights, the busy stores and the crush of spam in your e-mail.

Yes, said to me, the onslaught of junk e-mail has booties the list of holiday hallmarks.

Spam is, of course, a year-round phenomenon. But it unquestionably accelerates each November and continues right into the new year.

Much of consumers' annual retail spending takes place during this holiday shopping spree. Clearly, the junk e-mailers want their share.

You might think people wouldn't need to be warned against these solicitations. But they do. So, as a public service, I urge you: Never buy anything advertised via unsolicited commercial e-mail.

Anyone who would pollute your inbox illegally is surely capable of ripping you off, too.

Everything about these advertisements screams scam, swindle and con job. You'll probably get nothing for your money. If you get anything at all, it's likely to be some cheap trinket, a mere shadow of what you thought you were buying.

Worse still, you might discover that the e-mail "sale" was actually a thinly veiled excuse to pilfer your credit card number.

You'll figure that out when mysterious charges for things you never bought start turning

up on your credit-card statement.

And let's face it, the only reason anyone sends spam is the hope that a few suckers will respond. Every time someone does, it encourages future blasts of millions of junk e-mails.

In time, some of the big guns fighting spam — large, wealthy and tech-savvy corporations like America Online and Microsoft — might make progress against rogue spammers.

Meanwhile, it's up to Internet users to help stop spam by never responding to it. Don't even open it. Just delete it instead.

That is, naturally, a nasty chore. Fortunately, there is automated assistance available for a reasonable cost. The number of anti-spam software programs available to help filter your incoming mail is large and growing.

Norton Antispy (\$39.95) and McAfee SpamKiller (\$39.95) are two of the best-known products in the market. But they're also faced with a host of worthy competitors, including MailFrontier Desktop (\$29.95), Qurb Anti-Spam (\$29.95) and Anti-Spam EmailGuard (\$19.99).

Most have free trials available for download if you'd like to take them for a test drive before buying. If spam's getting to you down, they're worth checking out.

But whatever you do, don't buy them if they're advertised by e-mail.

## MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
	52-week High	Low	Index	Last	% Chg
Dow Jones Industrial	10,561.09	10,561.09	10,561.09	10,561.09	+11.48
S&P 500	1,379.05	1,374.46	1,379.05	1,379.05	+0.19
Nasdaq Composite	2,552.54	2,541.11	2,552.54	2,552.54	+0.11
Dow Jones Indus. Div.	7,163.88	7,161.85	7,163.88	7,163.88	+0.08
NYSE Composite	1,471.41	1,470.28	1,471.41	1,471.41	+0.08
NYSE Indus. Div.	2,117.17	2,115.82	2,117.17	2,117.17	+0.08
Nasdaq Comp.	1,207.97	1,206.72	1,207.97	1,207.97	+0.08
S&P 500	546.29	545.29	546.29	546.29	+0.08
Russell 2000	684.81	683.92	684.81	684.81	+0.08
Volatility Index	11.38	11.38	11.38	11.38	+0.08

## NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)					
Name	Vol	High	Low	Chg	% Chg
Alcoa	133,810	24.75	24.60	+0.15	+0.61
Boeing	102,533	108.40	107.00	+1.40	+1.31
General Electric	17,765	24.75	24.60	+0.15	+0.61
IBM	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Microsoft	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Oracle	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
SAP AG	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Schneider Electric	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Verizon	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06

## AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)					
Name	Vol	High	Low	Chg	% Chg
Alcoa	133,810	24.75	24.60	+0.15	+0.61
Boeing	102,533	108.40	107.00	+1.40	+1.31
General Electric	17,765	24.75	24.60	+0.15	+0.61
IBM	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Microsoft	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Oracle	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
SAP AG	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Schneider Electric	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Verizon	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06

## NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)					
Name	Vol	High	Low	Chg	% Chg
Alcoa	133,810	24.75	24.60	+0.15	+0.61
Boeing	102,533	108.40	107.00	+1.40	+1.31
General Electric	17,765	24.75	24.60	+0.15	+0.61
IBM	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Microsoft	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Oracle	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
SAP AG	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Schneider Electric	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06
Verizon	1,181,818	118.25	117.00	+1.25	+1.06

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs	\$1.3745	
Dollar costs	\$0.7275	
British pound	\$1.99	
Japanese yen (Dec. 22)	102.00	
South Korean won (Dec. 21)	1,031.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.2769	
Belgium (Franc)	1.3663	
Canada (Dollar)	1.289	
Denmark (Krone)	6.46	
Egypt (Pound)	6.2224	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.71463	
India (Rupee)	7.886	
Iceland (Krona)	6.265	
Ireland (Pound)	0.788	
Japan (Yen)	104.04	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2462	
Norway (Krone)	5.59	
Philippines (Peso)	55.17	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.47	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3663	
South Korea (Won)	1,031.00	
Switzerland (Franc)	1.3663	
Thailand (Baht)	35.17	
Turkey (Lira)	1,393,500.00	

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance and are not subject to the same restrictions as commercial exchange rates. U.S. (purchasing British pounds) in Germany and other countries are inter-bank facilities. Commercial rates are inter-bank facilities provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are approximate and subject to change without notice.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

London close		
Gold	\$441.30	
Silver	\$6.81	
Silver Rates		
Prime rate	5.25	
Discount rate	3.25	
3-month bill	1.13	
6-month bill	1.13	
1-year bill	1.13	
3-year bill	1.13	
5-year bill	1.13	
10-year bill	1.13	
30-year bill	1.13	
100-year bill	1.13	

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

## To our readers

Jim Coates is on medical leave. His computer advice column will return in several weeks.

cents and Sensibility  
Money tip of the day

## Gift card reminders

BY NANCY DUNNAN

We're coming up on holiday season, a time when many of us give cards on our holiday list a gift card.

They seem like the ideal present — a no-brainer in a way. You don't need to know your niece, nephew or friend's favorite color or what size sweater they wear and the lucky recipient gets to pick out his or her favorite thing.

All true, but make sure the gift card you purchase:

■ Does not expire. Some cards become inactive after a certain number of months. Others come with monthly "inactivity charges" during the time period they are not used.

■ Can be replaced. You want to deal with a retailer that will issue a new card should the original be lost.

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$50 to \$500K." She writes a weekly column for theonlineinvestor.com.





## Church thefts

**PA** PITTSBURGH — The housekeeper at a Catholic parish's rectory near Pittsburgh stole more than \$173,000 from collections by rifling through the envelopes early each Monday and then making computer entries to cover up the thefts, authorities said.

Amy J. Caldwell, Margara, who worked for St. Margaret's of Scotland Church in Green Tree for nearly a decade, was charged with theft.

Church officials began a general investigation of their finances after state police in West Virginia found two bank deposit bags by a road in January. That prompted an audit, and the church changed the way it counted and stored its collection money — putting it into sealed, tamperproof bags.

Once that happened, the church's weekly collections increased dramatically, leading church officials to conclude that someone had been stealing money.

## Off-color holiday humor

**KY** LOUISA — A weekly newspaper in eastern Kentucky has apologized for mistakenly printing sexually explicit Christmas jokes that left some blushing readers as red as Santa's suit.

The Lawrence County Storm also retrieved unsold copies of the edition with the jokes from newsstands in and around Louisa, where it is published.

Louisa Mayor Teddy Preston said he received phone calls from constituents who were angered and embarrassed by the jokes.

"It was very, very vulgar," Preston said. "It is something that shouldn't have been written in a local newspaper, or anywhere else, for that matter."

Some of the jokes were simply corny, but others put Santa in sexual situations, or made light of the religious side of Christmas.

Elva McCoy, a member of the newspaper staff, said someone on the staff had been reading the jokes on the Internet and that they had inadvertently made their way into the newspaper.

## Coal-fired power plant

**CO** DENVER — State regulators have approved Colorado's first coal-fired power plant in 25 years. The \$1.35 billion facility is designed to generate 780 megawatts of electricity a day — enough for 750,000 customers.

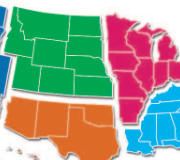
Under the agreement for the new unit at the Comanche Generating Station in Pueblo, Xcel Energy must upgrade pollution-control equipment at the two existing units.

The Public Utilities Commission approved the agreement 2-1. If an air quality permit is approved next year by state health officials, construction on the plant could begin in 2006.

"It's a win-win-win," said Xcel vice president Fred Stoffel, referring to environmentalists, the company and ratepayers.

## Teacher arrested

**CA** SAN JOSE — An elementary-school teacher has been arrested for alleged possession of



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

child pornography after a student in his classroom saw explicit pictures on the teacher's computer, according to police.

Christopher Casey, 44, turned himself in to police after detectives seized computers from his home, his classroom and a relative's home, authorities said.

Casey is a third-grade teacher at Castlemont Elementary School and has worked for the school district for 15 years, according to police.

## Tree ban reversed

**FL** NEW PORT RICHEY — The Christmas tree decorations were being rehung at Pasco County buildings after the reversal of a county authority's finding that the trees were unacceptable religious symbols.

Trees had been removed from county buildings after the initial decision, which allowed them only in "sempiternal" areas such as personal offices.

That decision drew angry reactions from residents and the American Center for Law & Justice, a law firm founded by televangelist Pat Robertson.

In a revised decision, the authority said that a Christmas tree is a



## Giving kids the world

Syracuse University football player Matt Tanullo rides on a carousel with 4-year-old Karissa Sibley in Kissimmee, Fla. Tanullo was spending time with children at Give Kids The World Village, a nonprofit resort in Kissimmee for children with life-threatening illnesses.

purely secular symbol, along with Santa Claus and candy canes.

## Rare bird found

**TX** BROWNSVILLE — A bird rarely found in the United States was discovered at a wildlife refuge in the Rio Grande Valley, officials said.

The bird, a female Crimson Collared Grosbeak, was found Dec. 10 at Camp Lila Sims after it apparently crashed into a window, said Pat Burchfield, the deputy director and zoologist at the Gladys Porter Zoo. The bird did not survive striking the window.

The bird, a native of Northern Mexico, is rarely found in the United States. This is the first specimen, said Mark Lockwood, with the Texas Bird Records Committee.

## Educators OK strike

**MO** ST. LOUIS — St. Louis teachers have authorized a strike against the state's largest school district. The vote was 1,427-225, easily more than the two-thirds majority necessary. No walkout date has been set. The district's 3,450 teachers have worked without a contract since July. Missouri law doesn't allow public school teachers to strike, but doesn't specify penalties.

## Large land purchase

**NV** INCLINE VILLAGE — The largest private land holding on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe would be acquired for \$75 million under a public buyout being considered by federal land managers.

The Bureau of Land Management is considering purchase of the 777-acre parcel that features scenic Incline Lake. If acquired, the land would be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for public recreational use.

## Tattoo for nonagenarian

**PA** DuBOIS — Ralph Bonebreak was born to be wild — in 1910.

The 94-year-old man recently got his first tattoo at the Tainted Flesh Tattoo and Piercing Studio in his hometown. Bonebreak emerged from under the needle with a locomotive on his right arm and an eagle on his left.

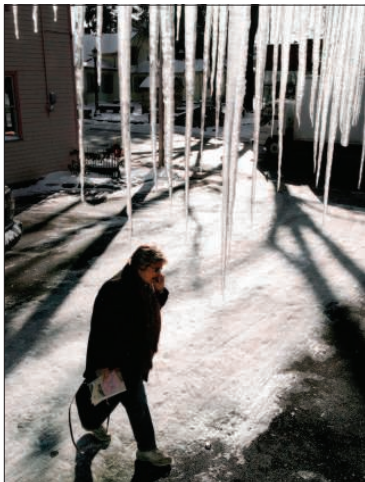
A lot of men who went into the military got tattoos, but Bonebreak's 38-year career with the railroad kept him out of the service, said his friend, Eve Camuso.

"He's always wanted a tattoo, but back then the only place you could get one was at the county fair," Camuso said.

"They weren't very clean." Bonebreak selected a train to commemorate his time with the railroad. A belt buckle inspired his eagle design.

## Skyway toll raise

**IN** HAMMOND — The new operator of the Chicago Skyway will raise toll rates to discourage tractor-trailer drivers from traveling during peak times. Effective Feb. 16, tolls for vehicles with three or more axles will increase during the peak hours of 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drivers of passenger cars will pay the same rates all day.



## Point of entry

A woman walks by icicles on her way to Violet's Florist and Gifts in the Grand Pacific Junction of Olmsted Falls, Ohio.



## Flake face

William Shaffer, 9, from Tampa, Fla., braves the heavy snow and low temperatures as he plays in the snow in Banner Elk, N.C.



## Snow-leaping lion

Oshana, a lioness at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, uses what is left of a snowman as a catapult to reach a nearby rock in San Diego.



**Jokesters, stage right** Fifth-graders Nancy Choi, second right, and Chelsea Atkinson, far right, joke with each other before going on stage to perform their part in "The Nutcracker" at Cimmaron Elementary School in Aurora, Colo.



**Three little rascals** From left, Hunter Taylor, Eva Lenhard and Gillian Wittstock with the Steppin' Out dance company perform a Little Rascals number in the annual December dance performance in Petersburg, Alaska.



**Claus with a cause** Santa Claus is framed through the American flag as he waves and rings the bell at cars passing by in Fort Smith, Ark. Claus, hired by Lin's Thrift Store, was donating half his proceeds to help needy children.



**Up in the rafters** J.R. Richardson positions a scaffold as he prepares to cut a rafter from the roof while helping dismantle the old University of Illinois Sheep Barn in Champaign, Ill.

**Reporter drops charges**

**NC** GRAHAM — Prosecutors have dropped criminal charges filed against a developer accused of assaulting and threatening a newspaper reporter.

The reporter asked prosecutors to drop charges against Ernie Koury Jr. after he apologized. Koury had been charged with communicating threats and simple assault.

James Moffat, a reporter for The Times-News of Burlington, said that Koury grabbed him by the throat and threatened to kill him earlier this month at the Burlington Municipal Building. Koury allegedly was unhappy with the newspaper's coverage of a private club that Koury is involved with opening.

**Crying over spilled milk**

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A milk truck overturned in California's Marin County, spilling 4,500 gallons of milk into Nicasio Creek and closing the roadway for 90 minutes, the California Highway Patrol said.

The truck, which had picked up a load of milk from a dairy just before the accident, ruptured and milk flowed across the road, down a hillside and into the creek.

Workers from the California Department of Fish and Game responded to the accident to oversee cleanup of the milk, which can be harmful to fish, authorities said.

**Trees at a premium**

**HI** HONOLULU — A shortage of Christmas trees in Hawaii has raised prices to more than \$200.

Tree buyers camped outside a shopping center hours before dawn to await a shipment of 130 noble fir flown in from Oregon. A crowd of more than 200 people had gathered by morning, when a salesman announced the trees would cost \$165 to \$200. Consumers complained that was at least twice the price charged just a few days earlier. In previous weeks, trees sold for \$30. Most Christmas trees sold in Hawaii have been delivered by cargo ships from farms in the Pacific Northwest. Last season, sellers suffered losses when hundreds went unsold, forcing them to give away the trees.

But this year, smaller orders caused a major shortage across the islands. Many major retailers sold out. But some customers rebelled. "He thinks he's got us because he's got the trees. But we have the money, and maybe we won't pay," shouted Barbara Taylor.

**Bowling alley to close**

**MO** ST. LOUIS — The historic Western Lanes — St. Louis' last full-sized bowling alley — will soon close its doors, sad news in a city that's home to the International Bowling Museum Hall of Fame.

AMF Bowling Worldwide Inc. says that next month the 36-lane bowling alley will end a run that began in 1962.

That will leave only four small alleys — two of them at Catholic parishes — in a city that once boasted about 30 bowling halls.

The Western is offering customers \$1-a-game bowling until its Jan. 30 closing.

Richard Weber, AMF's district

manager, said Western financially "has really gone south," starting to lose serious money more than a year ago.

**Spending most on firs**

**CT** GREENWICH — Wealthy Fairfield County tops the United States in Christmas tree sales, according to a survey of farmers by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. While fresh trees sell for about \$30 in most parts of the state, the average price is \$50 to \$60 along the Gold Coast, growers say. One nursery sells North Carolina-grown Fraser fir up to 16 feet tall for \$500, including delivery and installation.

**Deaths from overdosing**

**VA** ROANOKE — Drug overdoses deaths are apparently leveling off in western Virginia after years of sharp increases.

Dr. William Massello of the state medical examiner's office says 136 area residents died of overdoses through mid-August. Last year's total was 223. This year's total won't be known for some time, since it takes several months to confirm an overdose.

**Driving fatalities decline**

**WI** WAUSAU — Wisconsin is on pace to have significantly fewer traffic fatalities this year and fewer than the five-year average, safety experts say.

They cite increased seat belt use, stiffer law enforcement and a tougher drunken driving law. As of Friday, 744 people died in traffic fatalities, about 9 percent fewer than at the same time a year ago, officials reported.

**Airport has tardy image**

**AZ** PHOENIX — Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport ranked seventh-worst in the country among 31 major airports in on-time departures from January through October, according to U.S. Department of Transportation statistics.

The tardiest airline this year in Phoenix was Southwest Airlines. Southwest is revamping flight schedules to improve its on-time numbers, said Bill Owen, the airline's senior schedule planner.

**Notices e-mailed free**

**DE** DOVER — People interested in state government can now sign up for e-mail notices about everything from regulatory changes to General Assembly votes.

The free service includes most major state department and agencies. For several years, parents in Delaware have been able to get weather-related school closing notices e-mailed to them.

**Bay of Pigs museum**

**FL** MIAMI — Ground was broken for a museum recalling the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961. A restored B-26 bomber will be part of the display at Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport.

Cuban-American exiles from Miami filed the ranks of the U.S.-led invasion. Ten exile pilots and four American airmen died in the attempt to dislodge Fidel Castro from power.

Stories and photos from wire services



## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2004

AFN-FAMILY		AFN-MOJO		AFN-EUROPE		AFN-KOREA		AFN-NEWS		AFN-SPORTS		SPECTRUM		AFN-PACIFIC	
9:30	Wild Thornberrys	Movie "One Woman's Gossip" (1994) Patty Duke, Margot Kidder	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
10:00	ChalkZone (E)	ChalkZone (E)	(9:38) Oprah Winfrey	ES/News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
10:30	ChalkZone (E)	ChalkZone (E)	(10:38) Oprah Winfrey	ES/News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10:38) Movie *** "Die Hard 2" (1990) Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia. An L.A. cop battles terrorists in Washington.	(11:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
11:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10:38) Movie *** "Die Hard 2" (1990) Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia. An L.A. cop battles terrorists in Washington.	(11:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
12:00	Kim Possible "Daredevil"	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
12:30	Kim Possible "Bueno Nacho"	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
13:30	Movie *** "Barbie" (1995)	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
14:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
14:30	Funtastic Home Videos	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
15:00	Full House "The Volunteers"	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
15:30	Pokémon: Mew's Last Wish	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
16:00	Yo-Gi-Oh!	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
17:00	AAAH! Real Monsters	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
18:00	SpaceBowl SquaresPants	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
18:30	Rugrats	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
19:00	Scrubs "The Christmas Special"	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
19:30	Little Drummer Boy	Movie *** "Bring It On" (2000) Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow. Jesse Bradford, Lisa Kudrow.	(12:30) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
20:00	Jeopardy! Next	(58) Movie *** "Before Sunrise" (1995) Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy. Two young travelers share a whirlwind romance in Vienna.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
20:30	Jeopardy! Next	(58) Movie *** "Before Sunrise" (1995) Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy. Two young travelers share a whirlwind romance in Vienna.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
21:00	Jeopardy! Next	(58) Movie *** "Before Sunrise" (1995) Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy. Two young travelers share a whirlwind romance in Vienna.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
21:30	Jeopardy! Next	(58) Movie *** "Before Sunrise" (1995) Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy. Two young travelers share a whirlwind romance in Vienna.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
22:00	The Cozy Show	Movie *** "Single White Female" (1992) Suzanne Rogers	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
22:30	Home Improvement	Movie *** "Single White Female" (1992) Suzanne Rogers	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Re-seeing Love"	Movie *** "Single White Female" (1992) Suzanne Rogers	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Movies	Food 911	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Headline News
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2004															
00:00	AAAH! Real Monsters	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Seamus	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
00:30	Rocket Power	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
01:00	SpaceBowl SquaresPants	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
01:30	Rugrats	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
2:00	Yo-Gi-Oh!	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
2:30	Little Drummer Boy	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
3:00	Gilmore Girls "Kick & Nora's Story"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
3:30	Jeopardy! Next	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
4:00	Jeopardy! Next	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
5:00	Seamus Street (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
6:00	Barney & Friends (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
6:30	Dragon Tales (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
7:00	Bob the Builder	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
8:00	The Wiggles	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
9:00	Dora the Explorer	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
9:30	Wild Thornberrys	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
10:00	ChalkZone (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
10:30	ChalkZone (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
11:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
12:00	Kim Possible "Number 0"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
12:30	Kim Possible "Mind Games"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
13:30	Movie *** "Atlantic City" (1990)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
14:00	Empire! (2001) Voices of Michael J. Fox, James Van Der Beek	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
14:30	Funtastic Home Videos	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:00	Full House "Gotta Dance"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:30	Pokémon	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:00	Yo-Gi-Oh!	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:00	AAAH! Real Monsters	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:00	SpaceBowl SquaresPants	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:30	Rugrats	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:00	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:00	7th Heaven "Stand Up"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:00	The Cozy Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:30	Home Improvement	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Double Dose"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2004

00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	11:00	Movie *** "Angie White Female" (1992)	11:30	Late Show Access Hollywood	Headline News Bear in the Big Blue House	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House
00:30	Rocket Power	11:30	Movie *** "Boys n' Girls" (1992) Action Movie	11:30	NFL Pro Bowl Special	Boothbait (E)	NBC Nightly News	The Amazing Race	Boothbait (E)
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	12:30	Movie *** "Lethal Weapon 3" (1992) Action Movie	12:30	College Football GMAC Bowl - Boiling Green vs. Memphis, From Mobile, Ala. (Taped)	20/20 Evening News	4 Qtrs		20/20 Evening News
1:30	Regis	1:30	Regis, Danny Glover, Joe Pasco	1:30	Headline News	The NewHour With Jim Lehrer	College Basketball Illinois vs. Missouri, From St. Louis, (Live)	Andromeda "Fair Unknown"	Dr. Phil
2:00	Go-Go's	2:30	Little Drummer Boy	2:30	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	Discovery Sports: American Combatants	Oprah Winfrey	NBC Nightly News
3:00	Glimore Girls Nick & Norcia	3:00	Movie *** "L.A. Story" (1991) Comedy	3:00	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors, From the Arena in Oakland, Calif. (Live)	Friends	NBC Nightly News
3:30	Degrassi: Next	3:30	Degrassi: Next	3:30	Judge Judy	Highly Suspicious Report	Breathingspace Yoga	Jeopardy!	Judge Judy
4:00	Degrassi: Next	4:00	Movie *** "Before Sunset" (1995) Ethan Hawke, two young travelers share a whirlwind romance in Vienna.	4:00	Headline News	Low Dobbs Tonight	Crashpalooza Workout	Access Hollywood	Access Hollywood
4:30	Barney & Friends (E)	4:30	Barney & Friends (E)	4:30	Headline News	25) Guiding Light	Body Shaping	(25) Guiding Light	(13) General Hospital
5:00	Dragon Tales (E)	5:00	Headline News	5:00	Headline News	(13) General Hospital	NBA Football NWSL highlights, analysis, look-ins.	The View	Legend of Tarzan
5:30	Dragon Tales (E)	5:30	Headline News	5:30	Headline News	Larry King Live	ESPNs	Body Shaping	Aaahh! Real Monsters
6:00	Bob the Builder	6:00	Headline News	6:00	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Emetel	Sabrina, the Animated Series
6:30	The Wiggles	6:30	Headline News	6:30	Headline News	Headline News	20/20	30-Minute Meals	Nick News Special Edition
7:00	Dora the Explorer	7:00	Headline News	7:00	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Design on a Dime	Headline News
7:30	The Wild Thornberrys	7:30	Headline News	7:30	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Style Star	Pacific Report
8:00	The Wild Thornberrys	8:00	Headline News	8:00	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Style Star	Pacific Report
8:30	ChalkZone (E)	8:30	Headline News	8:30	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Style Star	Pacific Report
9:00	ChalkZone (E)	9:00	Headline News	9:00	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Style Star	Pacific Report
9:30	ChalkZone (E)	9:30	Headline News	9:30	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Style Star	Pacific Report
10:00	ChalkZone (E)	10:00	Headline News	10:00	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Style Star	Pacific Report
10:30	ChalkZone (E)	10:30	Headline News	10:30	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Style Star	Pacific Report
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	10:40	Movie *** "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (1999) Comedy	11:00	Headline News	The O'Reilly Factor	World Sport	The King of Queens	Will & Grace
11:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	11:00	Movie *** "The Mummy" (1999) Horror	11:30	Headline News	Will & Grace	SportsCenter	That '70s Show	To Be Announced
12:00	Kim Possible "Number One"	12:00	Kim Possible "Number One"	12:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Charmed "Mystery Ex-mans"	CSCI Crime Scene Investigation "XX"
12:30	Kim Possible "Mind Games"	12:30	Kim Possible "Mind Games"	12:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Gifted "The Sisters Must Separate"	CSCI Crime Scene Investigation "XX"
13:00	Planet's Finest Animals	13:00	Movie *** "Planet's Finest Animals" (2001) Nature	13:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
13:30	Planet's Finest Animals	13:30	Movie *** "Planet's Finest Animals" (2001) Nature	13:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
14:00	Planet's Finest Animals	14:00	Movie *** "Planet's Finest Animals" (2001) Nature	14:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
14:30	Planet's Finest Animals	14:30	Movie *** "Planet's Finest Animals" (2001) Nature	14:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
15:00	Funtastic Home Video	15:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	15:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
15:30	Funtastic Home Video	15:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	15:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
16:00	Funtastic Home Video	16:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	16:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
16:30	Funtastic Home Video	16:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	16:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
17:00	Funtastic Home Video	17:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	17:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
17:30	Funtastic Home Video	17:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	17:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
18:00	Funtastic Home Video	18:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	18:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
18:30	Funtastic Home Video	18:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	18:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
19:00	Funtastic Home Video	19:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	19:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
19:30	Funtastic Home Video	19:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	19:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
20:00	Funtastic Home Video	20:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	20:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
20:30	Funtastic Home Video	20:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	20:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
21:00	Funtastic Home Video	21:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	21:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
21:30	Funtastic Home Video	21:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	21:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
22:00	Funtastic Home Video	22:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	22:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
22:30	Funtastic Home Video	22:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	22:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
23:00	Funtastic Home Video	23:00	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	23:00	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report
23:30	Funtastic Home Video	23:30	Movie *** "Funtastic Home Video" (1998) Comedy	23:30	Headline News	To Be Announced	FOX News	Ally McBeal "Hairs Off to Lary"	Pacific Report

Read Stripes online at

www.stripes.com

STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



## FACES

## Cruz, Hayek bond

Spanish movie star Penelope Cruz and Mexican actress Salma Hayek hit it off from day one during the filming of "Banditas," a Western about two female outlaws set in 19th-century Mexico.



Cruz, left, and Hayek

"We've enjoyed it from the first day until yesterday," said Cruz, having completed about 14 weeks of working with Hayek, mostly in the northern Mexican state of Durango. "We have an incredible communication."

Written and produced by French filmmaker Luc Besson, "Banditas" tells the story of two women — one rich, the other poor — who overcome their differences to work together robbing banks. The movie finishes shooting this week and does not yet have a release date.

Hayek, who was born in Coahuila de Zaragoza in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, said her role as a Robin Hood-style bandit came easy after a piece of advice from Besson.

"The first thing he told us was it was very important that these women be heroes but never stop being women, that they not be women trying to be men," Hayek said.

## Stars pitch in for hurricane fund-raiser

A poster signed by Jennifer Lopez and a guitar signed by Wyclef Jean are on sale in an MTV Internet auction to raise money for hurricane victims.

Seventy-five percent of proceeds from the Caribbean Relief Auction will go to American Red Cross efforts in Haiti, Grenada and the Cayman Islands, according to MTV's Web site. The auction runs through Monday.

Other items include a poster signed by Britney Spears, tickets to "The Daily Show with Jay Stewart" and a travel package to Grenada. "I think fans pay attention," Jean said. "They are aware of the situation and want to do what they can to contribute."

The hip-hop star this week released a new music video, under the auspices of the U.N. World Food Program, to help Haitian victims of floods and rising political violence. He also has set up the charity Yele Haiti to help his impoverished homeland.

## Scott shares her trauma

R&B singer Jill Scott says she was raped over 10 years ago by her then-boyfriend.

After dating the unidentified man sporadically since she was 15, Scott says in the January issue of *Sister 2* magazine that when she was about 19, she visited him at his apartment.

"I came over there just to be around him 'cause I liked him most, I just wanted to be around him, it didn't matter," Scott, 32, told the magazine. "He attacked me. I mean, I'm down for getting buck wild just like anybody else, but this wasn't that. It was ripping my clothes off, me saying, 'Wait! No! Don't! Stop! What are you doing?'"

Scott says that she didn't realize what had occurred until she was recently writing in her journal.

Scott credits her husband of three years, Lyzel Williams, for helping her: "He's a genuine person with a huge heart. And the way he loves me is just ridiculous."

## Udipke's book find

John Udipke, like many a good book-lover, found the cellar of his house and shelves in his barn were being overrun with books he and his wife have collected over the years.

"They were just collecting dust and mouse droppings," the author told *The Boston Globe* in Friday's edition.

Their solution? Find someone who would pay for the used books, and haul them away.

"I'm at an age when you think about lightning your load, rather than dumping it on your heirs," said Udipke, 72, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner.

Mark Stolle, owner of Manchester by the Book store, bought Udipke's collection.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

## A celebrity Christmas list

One columnist has a few ideas on what to get for those naughty Hollywood stars (and a few of the nice ones)

BY LUAINEE LEE

Scripps Howard News Service

It's that time of year again, time to think of Christmas wishes you'd give the stars you've met during the year if you could.

Julia Roberts already received her Christmas package with the birth of twins. Being a mother will probably provide the gift she most needs: a little humility. A blubbery waistline, a touch of cold, double 2 o'clock feedings, loads of dirty diapers — all that should conspire to make Julia a little less contrary.

For Angelina Jolie, a fine present would be a decent husband-father to go with the new-found mother in her.

How about a wedding ring for Goldie Hawn, a teething ring for Nicolas Cage's new wife, and for Tom Hanks, a role that takes him beyond his endless goodwill into a tougher dimension? A healthy physique wouldn't be amiss for Renee Zellweger, instead of the emaciated one she pursues when she finishes with plump little "Bridget Jones."

Jennifer Connolly could use some Milk Duds and a McDonald's gift certificate.

Outlawing the toxic Botox would be a dandy donation to Hollywood's entire feminine contingent, and how about a bottle of mouthwash for Colin Farrell and a one-way ticket back to Australia for Russell Crowe? The gift of silence would be the best thing for Tommy Lee Jones, who can't open his mouth without berating someone. And for Jack Nicholson, a portrayal that does not depend on the Good Ol' Boy persona to get him through.

We could siphon off some great roles for underrated actors like Jeffrey Donovan, Don Johnson, Jeff Bridges, Bonnie Bedelia, Dana Delany, Tony Goldwyn and David Paymer.

A trip to India with meditation on the mount might be just the ticket for Helen Hunt, and for Alec Baldwin, a seat in local government.

For David Duchovny, a role that matches his stout intellect, and for director Wes Craven, a movie that doesn't have a single scream in it.

A welcome gift might

be an extra nanny for Jada Pinkett Smith, a better talent show for John McEnroe, funnier guests for Ellen DeGeneres and early retirement for David Letterman.

And for the nation's desperate housewives, how about a hunky 2005 calendar featuring Josh Duhamel, Michael Weatherly, Antonio Banderas, Aaron Eckhardt, Jude Law, Taye Diggs, Neal McDonough, Hugh Jackman, George Clooney, Denzel Washington, Matthew Fox and Matt Damon — not only gorgeous but good guys in the bargain.

May director Jonathan Frakes find a directing project that lights his afterburners and Oliver Stone find one that doesn't. A song that's No. 2 with a bullet for Neil Sedaka, healed vocal cords for Julie Andrews and an Emmy for Geoffrey Rush's phenomenal performance as Peter Sellers.

Tropical islands with no e-mails for retiring chief Sheri Lansing and Alexander Payne's next script for her husband, director Billy Friedkin.

May CBS get a clue, Dan Rather get a civilian job and FX find another "Nip/Tuck."

The best gift for Dakota Fanning would be a childhood, and for Britney Spears, adulthood.

For Michael Eisner, the job of CEO at Pixar, and for Roy Disney, the return of defecting animators to the fold.

It would be a charitable gift if reality shows would get real and fictional drama would come out of hiding.

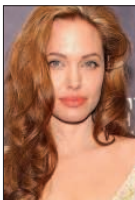
For the gang at "MadTV," how about a broadcast network gig, and the folks at "Saturday Night Live," a berth on cable? For John Goodman, a FUNNY sitcom, for Stephen Bochco (who's defecting to cable), may network

members be a remembrance of things past.

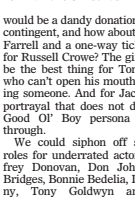
The best gift for "Jack and Bobby" would be a third season.

For Meg Ryan, how about some of the roles that go to Nicole Kidman? And for Showtime, some of the respect that always goes to HBO.

Renee Zellweger may want to seek out a happy medium for her body, somewhere between Bridget Jones and skinny as a rail.



Angelina Jolie might consider asking for a new man this Christmas.



Jennifer Connolly could use some Milk Duds and a McDonald's gift certificate.



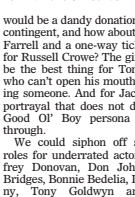
David Duchovny, a role that matches his stout intellect, and for director Wes Craven, a movie that doesn't have a single scream in it.



David Paymer.



Tom Hanks may like to find a few fresh roles under the tree this year.



Colin Farrell and a one-way ticket back to Australia for Russell Crowe?



Helen Hunt, and for Alec Baldwin, a seat in local government.



Alec Baldwin.



David Paymer.



David Duchovny, a role that matches his stout intellect, and for director Wes Craven, a movie that doesn't have a single scream in it.



David Paymer.



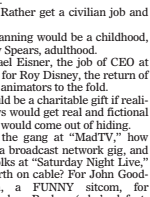
David Paymer.



David Duchovny, a role that matches his stout intellect, and for director Wes Craven, a movie that doesn't have a single scream in it.



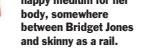
David Paymer.



David Paymer.



David Duchovny, a role that matches his stout intellect, and for director Wes Craven, a movie that doesn't have a single scream in it.



David Paymer.

# Horoscope

Time is the most valuable commodity. We can't waste it vacillating, holding out for an upgrade or haggling for the best price — too many practical actions must be taken in the next few days. Mercury projecting forward helps us do the same without encumbrance. Earth-sign influences bring thought, emotion and deal together as one.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(December 22).** Risks pay off huge this year!

In the next four weeks, run — don't walk — to invest in equipment that could change your work and financial life. Old loans return, and family reunions are healing in February. A whirlwind romance in the middle of spring makes you feel irresistible. But don't make hasty decisions.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

The more money you make, the better you feel — but is that right? Self-worth is not to be confused with net worth. Try and see all your contributions to the world as valuable, not just the ones that bring home dollar signs.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

When your mind is uncluttered by emotional thoughts, you're brilliant. Either eliminate upsetting influences or decide not to be upset by them. Romance can be found in your very own neighborhood.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

There's no shortage of stress these days. Make "health first" your motto. When your physical body is in balance, you can go about the business of doing everything you tell yourself you're going to do.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Motivating yourself is tricky business. When there's something you are loathe to do, all those less-than-loathsome tasks suddenly seem like gray! This is how papers get filed and clothes get folded.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

The darning of your world pulls a less-than-daring maneuver. Should you be quick to forgive? Not before you fully understand the motivation

behind this action. Do more investigating.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A friend tries to help you but may be underqualified for what it is you need. Flight now, it's better to rely on people for what they are already good at. Get more specific about your expectations, and then, put the word out.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you're not going to make a profit, you may as well not make a profit while slacking in front of the TV instead of working your fingers to the bone! An expert strategy ensures you're working both smart

and hard.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You don't want to be the exception to every rule; you just are. Accept your special status instead of trying to fit into the norm. Later, you'll learn that what you're now calling the "norm" is about as wacky as it gets.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

**(21).** People are depending on you. Don't even think about calling in sick — you're definitely the brains of your team now. If it weren't for you, the whole operation might temporarily shut down.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You're definitely on the minds of many. Friends drop by, and people call out the blue. Initially, you could be flustered — you hate to be caught unaware. In retrospect, you'll be happy you took time out to call.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your ultimate goal is only unattainable until you begin to pursue it. Someone powerful has a crush on you. Enjoy the boost to your ego, but don't feel you have to do something about it.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Finances depend on how innovative you can be. Satisfied customers come to the fore. Encourage people to put their good comments in writing. Testimonials could help you move to the next level in your business.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



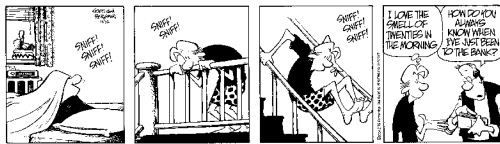
## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



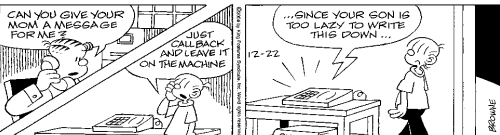
## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red Rover



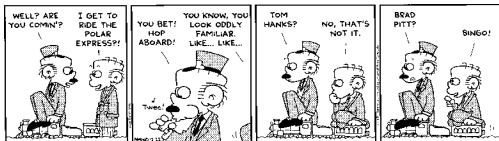
## Better or Worse



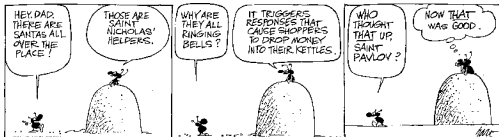
## Peanuts



Fortrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



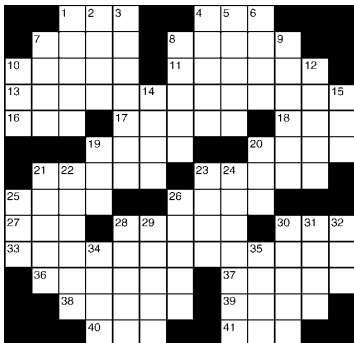
Hagar



Garfield



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Sylvester or Stimp
- 4 — Speedwagon
- 7 Relaxation
- 8 Toss choice
- 10 Wisen, maybe
- 11 Motor
- 13 Information distribution center
- 16 Make lace
- 17 Plus-column entry
- 18 Pontiac letters
- 19 Categorize
- 20 Singer Campbell
- 21 Teatime treat
- 23 Shakespeare's output
- 25 Gloomy
- 27 Last (Abbr.)
- 28 Playground fixture
- 30 Comprehend
- 33 Bookkeeper's place
- 36 Extras
- 37 Nonsense
- 38 Hackneyed
- 39 Elusive
- 40 Peculiar
- 41 Deteriorate

## Down

- 1 West Pointer
- 2 On the Mediterranean
- 3 Lay of the land
- 4 Gamut
- 5 Square dance group
- 6 Medley
- 7 Big name in scat
- 8 Nervous
- 9 With little leeway
- 10 Halloween abbr.
- 12 Sen. Kefauver
- 14 Capri, e.g.
- 15 West expanse of time
- 19 Supporting

## 20 "Sleepy Time —"

- 21 One's performances
- 22 Witty folks
- 23 Vintage videogame
- 24 Match alternative
- 25 French nobleman
- 26 "Lather, —, repeat"
- 28 Fancy riddle
- 29 Use handily
- 30 Self-reproach
- 31 Catch sight of
- 32 Ball-bearing item
- 34 Peacekeeping alliance
- 35 Sandwich snack

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-22 CRYPTOQUIP

W JGY'P UAUF MEFFZ  
 EFGHYJ MGWYX. W RHUXX  
 ZGH KWRVP XEZ W'K  
 EAUF XU PG MVEYRU  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I HEARD OF A FINE CARPENTER WHO PROUDLY SAID "ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY SHELF!"  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals R

# Porn habit requires counseling

**Confidential to my readers:** Although I know you're busy beyond belief preparing for the holidays, please take a minute to go to your computers and send greetings to our troops. This is the loneliest time of the year for these brave young men and women, many of whom are away from their families for the first time. Type in **www.OperationDear Abby.com** and let them know we care.

**Dear Abby:** I have been married for 10 years. I have always had fantasies about exposing my wife naked to other men. "Hazel" is a deep sleeper, and in college, I exposed her countless times for my roommates to see. (I pretended to be asleep.) From the time we were married, I took pictures of her while she slept. I posted a good number of them on Internet porn sites, making no attempt to blur her face, which would have

ruined it for me. I saved each porn site photo spread of her into a file on my computer.

Well, my wife found the file. We are now in marriage counseling, but I still have the fantasies. I know what I did was wrong, but I did it anyway. I don't want to lose my wife. Please help.

—Ashamed in Virginia

**Dear Ashamed:** You need more help than I can give you in a letter.

You violated your wife's trust, treated her like an object, and while I applaud the fact that you are getting marriage counseling, counseling of a different sort is also in order. Please ask your doctor for a referral to a psychiatrist ASAP.

**Dear Abby:** My co-worker has planned his own retirement dinner party at \$45 a head, including tax and gratuity. That might not be much to managers and supervisors who

receive large salaries, but for those of us who don't, that's a lot of money. What's ironic is he expects an additional \$10 from each of us for a gift.

A luncheon date for 50 percent of the staff had already been confirmed. However, yesterday a flier was distributed announcing a dinner on the same date the luncheon was canceled. Our lunch date was scheduled without consulting us.

We asked him to reschedule the lunch, told him the dinner party was too expensive, and asked if he would make the \$10 gift optional. Are we unreasonable, or is he?

—Wondering in San Francisco  
**Dear Wondering:** Wonder no more. He is. Please don't allow yourselves to be manipulated into spending more than you can afford on this anything BUT shy and retiring co-worker.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepspress.com/dearabby> or Universal Press Syndicate.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YIEPT

OPSOW

ANZATS

USDABE

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_ THE \_\_\_\_\_

www.jumble.com

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNACK OUTDO SCHOOL GOBLIT

Answer: Good looks can attract these — GOOD LOOKS

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

# Help cousin find place in new town

**Dear Annie:** I am 10 years old. My cousin "Zoe," just moved to our town and is going to my school. We're in the same classes, in the same youth group and in the same after-school activities, and we are going to the same summer camp. Zoe is really nice, but we live in a small town, and it can take a while to meet new people. So, she hangs out with my friends and me a lot, and even though I have no problem with that, some of my friends are hinting that they'd like her to leave us alone once in a while.

I love my cousin, but I could use a little breathing room.

—Cousin Problems  
**Dear Cousin:** Can you introduce Zoe to some schoolmates with whom she might have something in common? Perhaps she would like to join a sport or after-school group that doesn't include you. Zoe is still new to your area and needs time to find her own friends and her own

interests. She is relying on you to make the transition easier, so try to be patient with her. You won't regret it.

**Dear Annie:** I've heard people complain about the overblown Christmas newsletters they receive. You know what I'm talking about — the husband got his third promotion, the son was offered a full scholarship to Harvard, the daughter was voted homecoming queen, the 9-year-old plays three musical instruments, the oldest daughter married an ambassador, the first grandchild is a genius who already speaks three languages. So here's my Christmas Letter Revenge. I hope you will print it.

—Had Enough of That  
**Dear Had Enough:** Thanks for a good chuckle.

Here it is:  
**Dear Everybody:** Once again, the happy holidays are upon us. We have so many things to appreciate. Bob got a promotion to

french fry specialist at the fast-food joint, so we were able to purchase two more buckets at the flea market. We now have enough for all the holes in the leaking roof. We've actually collected so much water that we can flush the toilets every day.

The Peds found this year's marijuana crop before we could harvest it all, but we should make it through the winter with the profits from the still. Jimmy got out on good behavior just in time for Christmas and the birth of his fifth child. Fortunately, all four mothers have stopped fighting over him. Junior ran off again, and it gets harder and harder to get the sheriff to look for him. Just because he's 35 doesn't mean he can take care of himself.

I hope that the holidays find you whole and happy.

—Bertha Mae, Bob, Jimmy, Junior and all the Grandkids

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



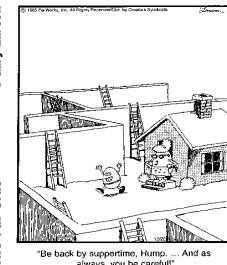
"Sorry, we don't have a pear tree."



## Dennis the Menace



## The Far Side



## Non Sequitur







# STRIPESS CLASSIFIED

## advertise with STRIPES CLASSIFIED

... it's a SNAP!

### PLACE A PRIVATE PARTY AD IN FOUR SIMPLE STEPS ↓

1. Write an ad (be sure to include the item, price/or best offer (OBO) and phone number).
2. Select a 4, 7, or 30 day package.
3. Choose a category from the index running most days in Stars & Stripes Classified.
4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment or on before the deadline listed below. \*

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DUE NOON THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DUE 4 PM TUESDAY</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DUE 4 PM THURSDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DUE NOON WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DUE 4 PM FRIDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DUE 4 PM MONDAY</b>		

### PRIVATE PARTY PACKAGES

1. 4 lines for 4 days for \$20.00 (\$5.00 per additional line).
2. 4 lines for 7 days for \$30.00 (\$7.50 per additional line).
3. 4 lines for 30 days for \$55.00 (\$10.00 per additional line).

\* Private Party Rates apply to individuals advertising personal merchandise or private property for sale, up to two major items such as a boat, motor vehicle or home. Commercial Rates apply to property and/or merchandise for resale in commercial operations. Employment Rates apply to job offers and job fairs. For Commercial or Employment Rate classified Stars & Stripes Classified. \* Payment is required in advance to ensure publication. Acceptable forms of payment include Visa, MasterCard, Cash or Money Order. Please do not cash. If an ad is not received by the designated deadline, it will begin running the next available day. Please allow one extra day for all federal holidays. \* Classified ad lines include approximately 25 characters (this includes space) per line.

Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is four business days prior to first date of publication. It's the responsibility of the advertiser to contact Stars & Stripes Classified on the first day of publication to correct errors. If the ad has a typographical error, that does not affect the integral value of the ad, i.e., misspelled words, wrong category (case-by-case), OMS, bold, italicized information, will be corrected, but no magazine will be given. Incomplete business forms, wrong prices, wrong dates, or model listed incorrectly result in a magazine for one additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and return any ad and all ads considered inappropriate for publication. All classified advertisements are non-refundable.

### CONTACT STRIPES TO PLACE AN AD

24 hour e-mail & fax service (Phone Service 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)  
E-mail: classad@mail.strips.com  
Fax: Germany 06155-0147-376  
Tel: Germany 06155-0147-376  
Tel: France 06155-0147-376  
Tel: Netherlands 06155-0147-376  
Tel: Spain 06155-0147-376  
Tel: U.K. 06155-0147-376  
Tel: Customer Service: 06155-0147-376 or DSN 349-8437  
FOR INFORMATION ON BUSINESS RATES OR ADVERTISING IN THE SERVICE DIRECTORY, CONTACT SEAN ADAMS AT COW: 06155-0147-376 or DSN: 349-8437.

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING COUPON

□ 4 lines/4 days @ \$20 □ 4 lines/7 days @ \$30 □ 4 lines/30 days @ \$55

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit/MC (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Category #: \_\_\_\_\_ Run Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Ad: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Announcements 040

WWW.OCNUS.COM

SHOP AT

OCNUS

AND YOUR

PURCHASES ARE

FREE!

\$2000

CASH

GIVE AWAY

BETWEEN

NOV 22 - DEC 22

STRETCH

your dollars with

exclusive coupons

and discounts!

600+ merchants

pre-screened and

rated for APOFOP

service & shipping

visit us at

WWW.OCNUS.COM

for details!

Find your

way home.

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

### Announcements 040

WWW.OCNUS.COM

SHOP AT

OCNUS

AND YOUR

PURCHASES ARE

FREE!

\$2000

CASH

GIVE AWAY

BETWEEN

NOV 22 - DEC 22

STRETCH

your dollars with

exclusive coupons

and discounts!

600+ merchants

pre-screened and

rated for APOFOP

service & shipping

visit us at

WWW.OCNUS.COM

for details!

Find your

way home.

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

### Autos for Sale - Germany 142

WWW.OCNUS.COM

SHOP AT

OCNUS

AND YOUR

PURCHASES ARE

FREE!

\$2000

CASH

GIVE AWAY

BETWEEN

NOV 22 - DEC 22

STRETCH

your dollars with

exclusive coupons

and discounts!

600+ merchants

pre-screened and

rated for APOFOP

service & shipping

visit us at

WWW.OCNUS.COM

for details!

Find your

way home.

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

### Trucks 174

WWW.OCNUS.COM

SHOP AT

OCNUS

AND YOUR

PURCHASES ARE

FREE!

\$2000

CASH

GIVE AWAY

BETWEEN

NOV 22 - DEC 22

STRETCH

your dollars with

exclusive coupons

and discounts!

600+ merchants

pre-screened and

rated for APOFOP

service & shipping

visit us at

WWW.OCNUS.COM

for details!

Find your

way home.

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink

HomeLink









# Majerus decides he'd be shortchanging USC

## Coach cites health concerns as reason for quickly backing out of job

BY KEN PETERS  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — At the time, it seemed like a great idea.

Then, Rick Majerus thought it through.

After making a snap decision to take the Southern California coaching job last week, Majerus almost as quickly decided he shouldn't.

"Maybe you're married and Jennifer Aniston walks by and she says, 'C'mon, let's go,'" Majerus said, trying to draw a parallel with what he described as being blinded by the dream opportunity to coach the Trojans' basketball team.

Majerus apologized to the school, athletic director Mike Garrett and associate athletic director Gary Gross on Monday in the room where he was introduced with much fanfare last Wednesday as the coach who would take over the team on April 1.

"I made a mistake. I'd be doing them a disservice and myself a disservice. Right now, I just can't bring it," a glum Majerus said, citing health concerns for his decision to back out of the job.

Majerus, 56, has had seven heart bypasses and an ongoing battle with his weight, which has been as high as 370 pounds. He also cited health concerns when he retired as Utah's coach last January after 15 seasons, and has been working as an analyst for ESPN.

He said he decided immediately to take the USC job when he

*"I made a mistake. I'd be doing them a disservice and myself a disservice. Right now, I just can't bring it."*

Rick Majerus

was offered it on Dec. 13, but had second thoughts as early as last Wednesday night.

"I looked at myself and thought that I was a phony. I realized they weren't getting the guy they hired. I'm not fit enough for this job for my standards. They weren't going to get the guy who puts in 18-hour days," Majerus said.

"I have a fitness issue. It all relates directly to my weight. I've got to be a problem. And I'm going to try hard to do something about it. ... I don't want to have a Rick Majerus memorial game."

That's not to say he's had any health problems recently.

"I think my health is good for probably anything other than to be an astronaut or a coach," he said. "I swam a mile and a quarter this morning just because I was so anxiety-ridden."

Assistant Jim Saia, made the interim head coach after Henry Bibby was fired four games into the season, will remain in the post for the rest of this season, Garrett said.

Garrett said the search for a coach will resume, although he has set no timetable.

Majerus, who plans to return to his ESPN job, guided Utah to the NCAA title game in 1998, losing to Kentucky, one of the Utes' 10 NCAA tournament appearances during his tenure.

Considered among the top candidates are Pepperdine coach Paul Westphal, a former USC star, and former Iowa State and Chicago Bulls coach Tim Floyd.



LOS ANGELES TIMES/AP

Rick Majerus announced on Monday he is backing out as Southern California's men's basketball coach less than a week after accepting the position. Majerus said he realized his health wouldn't allow him to put in the long work days he has in the past.

# No. 7 Syracuse prevails despite Cornell's 15 threes

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Syracuse has 10 wins and just one loss — numbers that don't impress coach Jim Boeheim.

The seventh-ranked Orange allowed a Carrier Dome-record 15 three-pointers in an 82-69 victory over Cornell on Monday night.

"If we don't change, it'll be evident to everybody," said Boeheim, whose 2-3 zone defense has been the staple of a program that won the 2003 national championship.

"We're just not there," he said. "We can still win a game like this when we don't defend the three, but we're going to come to a time where we can't."

The Orange allowed that many threes only once before — in a 96-92 victory over Southern Illinois in the Midwest Regional semifinals in the 1995 NCAA tournament.

Syracuse was able to beat the Big Red (3-6) for the 28th consecutive time by using a press to steal 17 turnovers, 11 on steals, in the second half.

The trick now is for the Orange to play the whole game the way they did the second half.

"We have to play intense," said Hakim Warrick, who had 19 points and 10 rebounds while fighting through double- and triple-teams all game. "The guys that have been here as leaders have to go out there and start the game with intensity and the guys coming off the bench will follow. It's something we have to do — set the tempo."

The last time Cornell beat Syracuse was on Dec. 4, 1968 — or eight years before Boeheim became head coach at his alma mater.

Boeheim trailed 36-35 at halftime on Monday and was dream-

## AP Men's Top 25

ing of an upset every time somebody hit from long range.

"We were excited at the end of the first half," said senior guard Cody Toppert, who was 7-for-10 from three-point range and had 25 points and seven assists. "We knew we were in the game. We wanted to come out and slow it up in the second half and maintain our poise."

The Orange, whose only loss was to No. 3 Oklahoma State, scored 28 points off Cornell's 23 turnovers.

"Our fullcourt pressure was the best we've played all year," Boeheim said. "We really did a good job and forced a lot of turnovers for some easy baskets. That was the difference."

Toppert had four turnovers, all in the second half, and junior forward Leony Collins committed eight turnovers, six after the break.

"You would love to win a game like this," Cornell coach Steve Donahue said. "I'm disappointed in the way we lost it. We just lost our composure. I thought if we kept our composure in the backcourt that we could have made a nice run and they might get a little tight and things happen."

The Big Red were 15-for-24 from three-point range, an eye-opening 62.5 percent. They were within 53-44 after a layup by Ryan Kourkue with 11:37 left, but Terrence Roberts then had eight points and a block, Warrick hit a hook off the glass, Gerry McNamara scored on a driving layup, and Josh Pace hit a runner in the lane after a turnover to boost the lead to 66-49 with 6:23 left.

"We just need to play hard and

dominate teams," said Roberts, who had a career-high 16 points, all in the second half. "We have to concentrate, play every team like it's a Big East championship game or NCAA tournament game. Defensively, we're playing horribly right now."

Cornell made seven three-pointers and only one layup over the final 9:14, but never got closer than 12 points.

McNamara, the Orange's second-leading scorer with a 14.8 average, landed awkwardly after taking a shot and sprained his left ankle with 4:23 remaining in the first half. He played 11 minutes in the second, didn't seem hampered by the injury, and finished with eight points and four assists.

**No. 21 Mississippi St. 104, Florida A&M 80:** Lawrence Roberts scored 25 points and Winsome Prazier added 24 for the Bulldogs (10-2), who won their fourth straight. Shane Power added 18 points for Mississippi State, which shot 53 percent from the field and led by as many as 31.

Tony Tate had 17 points for the Rattlers (2-6), who played their eighth of nine straight road games to start the season. This was their third against a ranked team as they lost to No. 1 Illinois and No. 23 Michigan State by an average of 31.5 points.

**No. 22 Cincinnati 95, Jackson St. 43:** Eric Hicks had 18 points and freshman reserve Roy Bright had a career-high 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Bearcats, who improved to 8-0 for the fifth time in the last 10 seasons. Coach Bob Huggins got his 550th career win, improving his record at Cincinnati to 382-119 in 16 seasons.

Antonio Williams-Parker had 12 points for the visiting Tigers (3-8), who shot 23.9 percent from the field and committed 24 turnovers.



AP

Syracuse's Hakim Warrick had 19 points and 10 rebounds Monday night as the Orange defeated Cornell 82-69 in Syracuse, N.Y.



Pittsburgh's Walt Harris took the head coaching job at Stanford last week but will coach the Panthers in the Fiesta Bowl against Utah on Jan. 1. Harris has been Pitt's coach for eight years, but his contract was not renewed by the school.

AP

## Stanford-bound Harris stays committed to Pitt

By ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pitt quarterback Tippy Palko clearly isn't happy with the Panthers' pending coaching change, saying it "stinks." Coach Walt Harris doesn't seem all that thrilled with it, either.

Harris, allowed to leave for Stanford last week in a move some players essentially consider a firing, acknowledged it is an emotional time as he prepares to coach the No. 19 Panthers in the Fiesta Bowl against No. 5 Utah on Jan. 1.

"Sure," Harris said Monday night. "I'm trying to act like it isn't, I guess because I think that's probably the way you're supposed to act. We were down at City Council today for University of Pittsburgh Football Day, and it is very emotional. I spent eight years trying to rebuild this football program and I think we accomplished that."

Asked if he wished he were staying, Harris said, "I think those questions are, unfortunately, behind us now. I do love these players. I have told them how much they meant to me, and that life goes on."

Some players were more vocal about Harris' departure, especially Palko, who unsuccessfully lobbied Pitt's administration to give Harris a new contract. Harris was signed through 2006, but the school said the contract wouldn't be extended — an awkward situation that all but guaranteed a coaching change.

"It's a business and it's cut-throat, and it stinks," said Palko, the son of a Pittsburgh-area high school coach. "But being around it my whole life, you understand this is part of the job."

"Coach Harris has been great."

He hasn't been selfish about anything, he's been all about the team and we appreciate that."

Harris' 25-12 record since 2002 is the best for a Pitt coach over a three-year span since Jackie Sherrill's teams went 33-3 from 1979-81. Still, athletic director Jeff Long said last week he couldn't say he was "disappointed," Harris is departing.

Long and Harris were not close, and Long was angered in mid-October when the coach's former agent demanded the school give Harris a new contract or let him seek another job.

Long interviewed Carolina Panthers assistant coach Steve Lerner, a former Pitt assistant, on Monday and is winding down his search for Harris' replacement. Among those interviewed were Oklahoma assistant coach Bo Pelini, Baltimore Ravens assistant Matt Cavanaugh, New York Giants assistant Tim Lewis and Pitt defensive coordinator Paul Rhoads. Former Miami Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt pulled out of consideration Thursday, saying he wasn't ready to take another job.

Pitt has signaled it wants to hire a coach before the players leave campus Thursday, but it wasn't certain Monday if Long is ready to recommend his choice to chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

Some Pitt players think they already have a good coach, and many remain confused about why Harris is leaving.

"I think when it happened, it was (a distraction), third-team All-America tackle Rob Pettit said. "Now, we have our eye on the ball's eye. Coach Harris said he wanted to coach us in a bowl game and wants to go out with a win, and I want to go out with a win. So we need to go and win now."

# Louisville's Petrino signs \$1 million-a-year contract

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville football coach Bobby Petrino signed a contract Tuesday that will pay him \$1 million a year and a \$100,000 bonus if the Cardinals win the national championship.

The 43-year-old Petrino was making \$550,000 a year under his old contract. The new deal adds a \$50,000 bonus if the Cardinals reach the Bowl Championship Series title game and another \$50,000 if the Cardinals win it.

Louisville will join the Big East next season. The Cardinals were not eligible to automatically qualify for the BCS as members of Conference USA.

"That's what our goal is," Petrino said of the BCS.

"It's certainly something that's out there for us and something we're committed to getting done."



Petrino

The seventh-ranked Cardinals (10-1) earned the highest ranking in school history and led the nation in points and yards per game.

Petrino has been mentioned as a candidate for several major coaching jobs in the past month, but assured members of Louisville's athletics association board Tuesday morning that does not intend to leave.

The new contract, like the old one, runs through the 2010 season. Petrino will earn a \$1 million bonus if he stays through the 2007 season.

"I'm looking forward to the upcoming years," he said. "This is the place I want to be, this is the place my family wants to be. We're looking forward to the future."

Louisville athletic director Tom Jurich expects Petrino's name to be mentioned when high-profile jobs open.

"There are certainly schools out there that have more money than us," Jurich said. "But we're going to do everything in our power to keep everything stabilized here."

The Cardinals play No. 10 Boise State (11-0) in the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 31.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

**Ohio State suspends QB Smith for Bowl Bowl**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended on Monday for violating team and NCAA rules and will not play in next week's Alamo Bowl.

Coach Jim Tressel would not say what Smith did or when the violation occurred, but said the university became aware of the problem on Thursday.

## College football briefs

Oklahoma State.

Justin Zwick, a sophomore, will start. He had been the starter until he lost the job after mildly spraining his left (non-throwing) shoulder in the sixth game of the season.

"I am aware of what is expected, both on and off the field, at Ohio State and I have fallen short of those expectations," Smith said in a statement.

**TB Davis among three Volunteers academically ineligible for Cotton Bowl**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee senior tailback Jabari Davis will not travel to the Cotton Bowl because he failed to meet academic requirements.

Davis' playing time decreased dramatically this season. He had 587 yards as a sophomore and 565 last season and only 34 yards on 18 carries this year.

Receiver Derrick Tinsley and linebacker Marvin Mitchell, both out for the season with injuries, also were ruled ineligible for the game against Texas A&M.

**Memphis gives West contract extension**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis coach Tommy West agreed to a one-year contract extension after leading the Tigers to back-to-back bowl games for the first time in the program's history.

West received the extension Monday while in Mobile, Ala., where the Tigers (8-5) play Bowling Green in the GMAC Bowl on Wednesday.

"I've made it very clear that this is what I wanted to happen," West said. "I'm really enthused and excited it's going to work out the way we wanted it to work out."

West's new contract runs through 2009 and raises his income to \$800,000 a year.

Memphis has won eight or more games two seasons in a row for the first time in 40 years.

**Reserve Texas RB suspended after arrest**

AUSTIN — Texas reserve running back Erik Hardeman, who had not played this season because of academic problems, has been suspended indefinitely from the team after a felony arrest on a drug charge.

Police say they found about 20 grams of cocaine in a car Hardeman was riding in last week.

According to Austin police, Hardeman was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance on Dec. 14. The second-degree felony charge carries a penalty of two to 20 years in prison.

**UAB warms up to playing Hawaii**

UAB is actually considered a neutral bowl site. Both teams are staying in a Waikiki beachside hotel, just a couple miles from the University of Hawaii campus.

"We're just as distracted as they are," said UAB coach Elumina, Hawaii's all-WAC cornerback.

But Brown said there's nothing neutral about playing Hawaii at Aloha Stadium, where the Warriors' offense averages 42.8 points and 472.6 yards per game. Hawaii averaged just 19 points and 344.8 yards on the road.

"We're the only team in the bowls playing an away game," he said.

But Brown and his players aren't complaining.

"In Birmingham, it's about 25 degrees and cold," UAB quarterback Darrell Hackney said. "Here, we're in the heat and shorts all day. Now we're adjusted to the heat and we're ready to go."

Play the

**NFL Challenge**

WIN CASH!

Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

**New Gamer Laptop**

with AMD 64 processor!!!

LCD TV, MP3 Player, Digital Camcorder, and much more with easy monthly payments

No Down Payment Needed!!!

Get your Christmas shopping done early!!!

[www.militarycomputers.us](http://www.militarycomputers.us)

or [www.militaryus.net](http://www.militaryus.net)

# Raiders' Woodson arrested for public intoxication

The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Charles Woodson and safety Marques Anderson were arrested early Monday for investigation of public intoxication following the Raiders' victory over the Tennessee Titans.

The Oakland Police Department said the players were arrested at 4:20 a.m. PST in downtown Oakland after refusing to leave the back seat of a woman's car. Both were jailed briefly, police spokeswoman Danielle Ashford said.

"Apparently what happened, an officer in our transportation section was flagged down by a woman who said the men were in the back of her car and wouldn't get out," said Ashford, who was uncertain whether the players knew the woman. "They were very uncooperative. They had problems maintaining their balance, bloodshot watery eyes and had a strong odor of alcohol. They were acting in a belligerent manner."

Woodson, 28, and Anderson, 25, were booked into Oakland City Jail. Jail is not required for the misdemeanor offense, Ashford said, but Anderson had to post \$5,000 because of an outstanding traffic violation. Both were released between 8 and 9 a.m., Ashford said.

Ashford didn't know when the players would appear in court. "It's a situation where you'd like your guys to not be in that situation," said coach Norv Turner, who has not spoken with Woodson or Anderson since the incident. "The thing we always talk about, those hours are where problems turn up. That's how you avoid them, by staying out of those situations. Again, I don't know a lot about exactly what happened, so I'd prefer not to comment on it until I do."

Woodson, designated as the Raiders' franchise player in February, didn't play during the 40-35 victory over the Titans because of an injured knee, but hustled through the locker room high-fiving teammates afterward. He held out for four months trying the get a more lucrative contract but insisted in September there's more to be concerned with than a long-term deal. Such a deal could be in jeopardy.

He signed a one-year tender for \$8.782 million after missing 33 days of training camp. Woodson has 74 tackles, 2½ sacks and two forced fumbles this season. He hadn't missed a game since being suspended and sent home by former coach Bill Callahan for the final game last season at San Diego for missing curfew.

Turner hasn't had any significant issues with Woodson. Anderson was acquired in a

a.m., Ashford said.

Ashford didn't know when the players would appear in court. "It's a situation where you'd like your guys to not be in that situation," said coach Norv Turner, who has not spoken with Woodson or Anderson since the incident. "The thing we always talk about, those hours are where problems turn up. That's how you avoid them, by staying out of those situations. Again, I don't know a lot about exactly what happened, so I'd prefer not to comment on it until I do."

Woodson, designated as the Raiders' franchise player in February, didn't play during the 40-35 victory over the Titans because of an injured knee, but hustled through the locker room high-fiving teammates afterward. He held out for four months trying the get a more lucrative contract but insisted in September there's more to be concerned with than a long-term deal. Such a deal could be in jeopardy.

He signed a one-year tender for \$8.782 million after missing 33 days of training camp. Woodson has 74 tackles, 2½ sacks and two forced fumbles this season. He hadn't missed a game since being suspended and sent home by former coach Bill Callahan for the final game last season at San Diego for missing curfew.

Turner hasn't had any significant issues with Woodson. Anderson was acquired in a

Anderson was acquired in a

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.  
Ben Roethlisberger (sprained knee) questionable.

September trade with Green Bay.

## McGee's status uncertain after Bills RB hurts knee

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Running back Willis McGee has a hyperextended and bruised right knee that could prevent him from playing in Buffalo's game Sunday at San Francisco.

McGee's condition Monday indicated the running back will not require surgery, McGee's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, told The Associated Press.

"It's great news," Rosenhaus said. "It's not something that will keep him out an extended period of time, but we don't know about this week."

Coach Mike Mularkey would only list McGee as day to day, declining to discuss the severity of the injury.

McGee was hurt when he stumbled and landed awkwardly while catching a swing pass in the second quarter of Buffalo's 33-17 win at Cincinnati on Sunday.

The injury is not to McGee's left knee, the one he tore in his

final college outing for the University of Miami in the 2003 national championship game.

## Ramsey will begin next season as Redskins' starting QB

ASHBURN, Va. — Patrick Ramsey has already won next season's quarterback competition for the Washington Redskins.

Coach Joe Gibbs said Monday that Ramsey will be the starter in the 2005 season, and he expects Mark Brunell to remain with the team as a high-priced backup.

"We're starting with Patrick," Gibbs said. "That's who we've gone with. He's our guy. We're hoping he continues to progress."

Ramsey has completed 65 percent of his passes, with five touchdowns and three interceptions, and an 83.3 rating in five starts since replacing Brunell. The Redskins are 2-3 in those games, losing to Philadelphia twice and Pittsburgh once.

"When someone goes in and starts playing good, the way I look at it, he's earned the right," Gibbs said. "That started from the first day he went in there and started playing good. I'm kind of reluctant to pull guys in and out, so I kind of give him a shot and we're going until something would happen to tell me that, hey, we need to make a change."

The Redskins paid a high price for Brunell in the offseason, trading a third-round draft pick to

Jacksonville for him and then signing him to a seven-year, \$43 million contract with an \$8.6 million signing bonus.

## Martz denies he's resigning

ST. LOUIS — As bleak as the situation looks, Rams coach Mike Martz isn't giving up.

Martz, whose fifth season with the team has been disastrous, on Monday had a strong rebuttal to an ESPN report he might consider quitting. The Rams were among the preseason NBC favorites after going 12-4 last year, but are 6-8.

"I would never resign from this job," Martz said. "I love this job and I would never leave these guys. We've got a real solid crew of young players and it's going to eventually be a terrific team, and I'm not going to ever walk away from something like that."

Martz has two years left on a contract that pays him \$3.5 million annually.

"I coach because I want to coach, and I love being here," Martz said. "That hasn't changed. We're going to forge on and get this thing back up and running the way it should be."

Martz is 51-32, including playoff games. He was the offensive coordinator in 1999, when the Rams won their first Super Bowl. He led the Rams to a 14-2 record and a Super Bowl loss in 2002.

# Del Rio defends Darius' hit that KO'd Ferguson

BY MARK LONG  
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio defended hard-hitting safety Donovan Darius on Monday, saying he never intended to hurt Robert Ferguson with a clothesline tackle that put the Green Bay receiver in the hospital.

Del Rio said he expected Darius to be fined but not suspended for the shot that temporarily paralyzed Ferguson and knocked him unconscious Sunday.

"It was a nasty shot, but I don't believe his intent was to headbutt the guy," Del Rio said.

Ferguson was taken off the field on a stretcher and temporarily paralyzed below the waist following the hit. He regained feeling and movement on his way to the hospital, where he spent Sunday night. He will remain there at least one more night for tests and observation.

"They gave no indication that it's career-threatening. But I don't know if you can make that evaluation less than 24 hours" later, Packers coach Mike Sherman said. "All signs indicate that he's going to be fine."

Ferguson was experiencing numbness on his left side a day after getting hurt, said Eric Armstrong, director of player development for E.O. Sports Management, the agency that represents Ferguson.

As Ferguson made a leaping, 31-yard catch at mid-field, Darius hit the defenseless receiver across the neck with a left hand. The hit knocked Ferguson out of the game.

The shot ripped off Ferguson's helmet, stunned the crowd at Lambeau Field and infuriated the Packers with 4:41 remaining in a 28-25 loss to the Jaguars.

Darius was flagged 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct and ejected by referee Ed Hochuli.

"He plays a physical brand of football, but he plays within the rules," Del Rio said. "He did not go



Jacksonville's Donovan Darius (25) was ejected during Sunday's game for his clothesline hit on Green Bay receiver Robert Ferguson, who was knocked unconscious and temporarily paralyzed below the waist. Ferguson is expected to fully recover.

helmet to helmet. He did not project himself or launch himself into the guy. He attempted to club at the football and ended up clubbing the guy in the head. It should be flagged and it was. I'm sure it will be fined and it should be.

"If he really wanted to hurt the guy, he would launch himself or he would go helmet on helmet and really kill the guy," he said.

Sherman called the hit "a cheap shot," and some players said there probably would have been retaliation had Darius stayed in the game.

An Sports Writer Annie Stapleton in Green Bay, Wis., contributed to this story.

# Owens: Star WR targets Super Bowl for return

OWENS, FROM BACK PAGE

"He's a great player, but can the offense go on? Absolutely," coach Andy Reid said Monday. "We have some pretty good players on this offensive unit, so it'll still function and do very well this week."

Without Owens, the Eagles will be left with the same lackluster receiving corps that has disappeared when needed in NFC title games. Freddie Mitchell or Greg Lewis could join Todd Pinkston as the other starting wideout. Those three have a combined 60 catches for 1,073 yards.

Pinkston has an injured knee. Reid said the Eagles will activate wide receiver Billy Mcullen. Running back Brian Westbrook, who missed the playoffs last year, will also get more looks.

Owens, who has 77 catches for 1,200 yards and a team-record 14 touchdowns, also has a fracture a few inches below his knee. Head trainer Rick Burkholder said the fracture is not as serious, and can heal without surgery.

Owens will have surgery on his knee Wednesday and has only an outside shot to be ready to play in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6.

"We're talking about playing in one game that he's never played in before," Burkholder said. "He could do it safely."

Owens had an MRI at the Ea-

gles' complex Monday morning, and complained of pain in his lower leg. He then saw an ankle specialist in Baltimore. Tests revealed a sprained deltoid ligament.

"I went down there optimistic, hoping for the best, and I got the worst news," Owens said. "Things happen. You've just got to move on from it."

Owens still planned to play in Jacksonville, Fla., site of the Super Bowl — which the Eagles have never won.

"They will probably have to put me in a straitjacket," he said.

Other than that, I feel overwhelmingly confident that they can win the two playoff games the championship, obviously. Depending on how my rehab process goes, if I am able to go, God willing, then I am going to give it a shot."

Owens was hurt on the second play of the third quarter of Philadelphia's win over Dallas on Sunday when he was dragged down from behind by Roy Williams on a 20-yard reception. Owens immediately grabbed the back of his leg, which was bent backward.

The Eagles finished first in the conference three straight years, but couldn't take advantage of playing at home in the past two NFC championship games, losing to Tampa Bay and Carolina. The Eagles also lost in the NFC title game in 2002, in St. Louis.





Lions helper Nick Harris lays on the ball after being tackled by Vikings cornerback Terrence Shaw on an extra point attempt. The point would have tied the game with 12 seconds left, but Minnesota won 28-27.

## Break has Vikings snapping to attention

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings, in danger of watching their season come completely undone, finally got the big break they desperately needed.

"You take the wins any way you can get them," coach Mike Tice said Monday, less than 24 hours after a bad snap by Detroit's Don Muhlbach prevented the Lions from attempting the game-tying extra point with 8 seconds left and gave the Vikings a wild 28-27 victory.

A little more than three hours after that improbable finish, Green Bay (8-6) lost at home to Jacksonville and fell back into a tie for first place with Minnesota in the NFC North.

That created a colossal matchup at the Metrolink for Friday afternoon, pitting the Packers against the Vikings for the division title. Tebreners assure that the winner will finish, regardless of what happens in the regular season's final week.

"We're starting to kind of come back around here," offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. "Hopefully we're peaking at the right time."

After the offense stalled throughout much of the second half, Daunte Culpepper led two long touchdown drives in the fourth quarter. He was asked, after the game, if the outcome proved that this year's team is different than the one that lost seven of its last 10 and missed the playoffs in 2003.

"I think it does show that," said Culpepper, who passed for 404 yards and three touchdowns. "We just keep fighting all the way till the end, no matter what. We had luck on our side. If you keep fighting, you have to get a break some time."

Tice recalled a crazy play in last year's loss to the New York Giants that seemed to start the season-ending 3-7 slide. Clinging to a one-point fourth-quarter lead, Minnesota watched a blocked New York punt was scooped up by the Giants' Wesley Miallard — who ran 20 yards for a first down.

**Green Bay at Minnesota  
9 p.m. Friday  
AFN-Sports and Radio**  
Game time is Central European.

"That kind of snowballed our season last year and put the black cloud over us for a number of weeks," Tice said. "I don't think we've had that feeling at all this year. . . . This team has battled until the end in every game. We haven't always come through with the play to win the game, with a stop to win the game, but we certainly have not got that 'Woe is me' feeling."

Though the Vikings forced three turnovers and held the Lions to 13 points until midway through the fourth quarter, the pass coverage remains a pressing concern. Joe Harrington, booed more than one time on Sunday, passed for a career-high 361 yards after throwing for only 47 against the Packers the week before.

Detroit's offense, now 27th in the league, totaled 463 yards and scored what should have been the tying touchdown by driving 80 yards in less than 1½ minutes.

"We've got to have enough confidence in ourselves defensively and get off the field somehow, some way, no matter what it takes," Tice said.

Getting cornerback Antoine Winfield (sprained ankle) back for the Green Bay game will help a lot. Winfield looked good in a workout Monday, according to Tice, and should help relieve the pressure on Brian Williams and Terrence Shaw.

Shaw struggled with dehydration and chest congestion, and Williams was worn out from playing defense and three special teams.

Backup Derek Ross struggled again, and safety Corey Chavous was forced to play cornerback in the dime defense on the Lions' final drive.

"I could go on for days about some things that I could have done better — but the bottom line is that we won the game," Chavous said. "That's all that matters to any of us in here right now."

BY MEL REISNER  
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals may have turned their season around with one game.

The Cardinals, who had lost four straight, emerged from a 31-7 win over St. Louis with a quarterback who has the unquestioned respect of his teammates, without a significant new injury and improbably positioned for a playoff run.

"That was our best game of the year," coach Dennis Green said Monday. "It was good to play a game that you would like to put in a bottle and bring it out whenever you want to."

Arizona, which had given up an average of 338 yards a game during the skid, held the Rams to 185 and denied them an offensive touchdown on their most serious threat thanks to a highlight-reel play by free safety Heany Olate, who punched the ball out of Torrey Holt's arms and recovered it in the end zone.

Marshall Faulk gained 29 yards on 10 carries, the Rams' only running plays.

"We were able to take the run away, and that was our goal," said Darrell Dockett.

Green felt the defense was becoming predictable, so Dockett and Ross Kolodziej were used at both defensive tackle and end against the Rams, and defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch had a prominent role in two situations to further mix things up.

St. Louis' only TD came on a 61-yard fumble return by Leonard Little with seconds left in the second quarter.

"We've been waiting for a goose egg all season," Olate said.

No 7-9 team has ever won an NFL division title, but the Cardinals have a decent shot at doing just that. They play the Seahawks in Seattle next week and finish the regular season with Tampa Bay at home.

If Arizona wins out and the Seahawks and Rams lose out, the Cardinals will make history by joining a playoff game with a losing record. They also retain a longer shot at earning a wild-card berth, but game against Seattle is a long game for us."

Green's finally settling on Josh McCown, whose benching for three games coincided with the first three losses in the skid, should strengthen the Cardinals down the stretch.

Both acknowledged that McCown's time on the bench, although a bitter experience, gave him a different perspective that should translate into more consistent play.



Cardinals quarterback Josh McCown (12) celebrates his touchdown with Anquan Boldin during the fourth quarter against the Rams on Sunday.

McCown, who passed for a career-high 307 yards in a 31-28 overtime loss to San Francisco last week, had his best NFL game, throwing for 287 yards and two TDs — both to Larry Fitzgerald — with no interceptions. He also ran for two scores.

Special teams also were superb. Punter Scott Player had his second straight game averaging more than 50 yards, and Neil Rackers nailed a 48-yard field goal to improve to 18-for-22.

Rackers also extended his NFL-leading total of touchdowns on kickoff to 19, breaking Joe Nedney's franchise record (17) in the process.

"Neil was a guy who showed potential as a strong-leg guy, but he did not have the consistency that he has right now," Green said.

Linebacker Raynoch Thompson (shoulder) sat out the game, and Green said it might be another week before the former starter is available. Of even more concern is the torn meniscus in left tackle Leonard Davis' left knee.

Davis was considering limiting his practice time to try to get through the end of season before having the cartilage repaired.

Losing the 6-foot-6, 380-pound lineman would be a severe blow because right tackle L.J. Shelton, the team's left tackle the last five years, was placed on injured reserve Dec. 14 with a ligament strain.

### NFL playoff scenarios

#### FOR WEEK 15

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios

##### NFL playoff scenarios



**IT'S  
FREE!!!**



***Your  
photos  
appear  
here!***

# Create Your Own 2005 Desktop Calendar!

## KEY FEATURES:

- Customize using your own family snapshots. A new photo appears each month.
- Send by email to family and friends around the world. Makes a perfect Christmas gift!
- Keep track of birthdays, anniversaries and appointments using the built-in Daily Planner.
- Just in time for Christmas.

To get your free desktop calendar, just go to **www.Stripes.com** and click the Stripes Club link at the top of the page.

Note: This Digital Calendar software is for personal use only and is not authorized for use on government computers.

Your Hometown Newspaper  
**STARS AND STRIPES®**  
[www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)

## SPORTS

## Stunning Fin-ish



Dolphins receiver Derrius Thompson (88) catches a 21-yard, game-winning touchdown pass with 1:23 left in the game as Patriots cornerback Troy Brown (80) defends on Monday. See story on Page 34.



Majerus apologizes to USC:  
'Right now, i just can't  
bring it,' Page 30



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Eagles receiver Terrell Owens is helped to the locker room after being injured early in the third quarter against Dallas on Sunday. Owens needs surgery on his ankle and will miss the rest of the regular season.

## Owens out for playoffs

### Injury to key weapon hurts Eagles' shot at Super Bowl

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The parade is on hold. Those plane tickets to the Super Bowl are being double-checked to see if they're refundable.

Move over Boston. Quit cryin' Chicago. Want to talk about hexes and curses? Move to Philadelphia.

Terrell Owens, the playmaking, showboating and game-breaking wide receiver for the Eagles, is out for the rest of the regular season, the playoffs and probably the Super Bowl — if they get that far — with a sprained ankle.

TO has been TKO'd for the year, and suddenly fans and players in Minnesota, Green Bay and Atlanta are smiling.

The Philly faithful, meanwhile, are asking for a double. Yup, this was a two cheesesteak kind of a night.

"I think it's a devastating blow to the Eagles' chances," said fan Jamal Martin as he munched on finger foods at a downtown watering hole. "I don't know if they can recover."

Philly fans pessimistic? That's like asking if the sky is blue.

Though long-suffering Eagles

fans would never be so foolish to think a trip to the Super Bowl was a lock, even though their team is clearly the best in the NFC this season, it seemed this reality would be their year.

The news hit the Eagles (13-1) on Monday like a sucker punch to the gut — Owens is likely finished and needs surgery, a crippling blow to a team that has lost three straight NFC title games.

"I was looking forward to the playoffs, really trying to get this team to the Super Bowl," Owens said. "I think without me, still, they achieve that goal."

"There's no reason for the city of Philadelphia to get down because I'm not there," he said. "Obviously, my presence will be missed, but we have the guys to get it done."

Perhaps, but it's going to get a whole lot harder without Owens.

The NFC East champion Eagles are left without their biggest offensive threat, their most animated player.

SEE OWENS ON PAGE 32

■ Arizona actually has shot to win NFC West, Page 33

■ Bad snap the good break Vikings needed, Page 33

Deal sending Johnson to Yankees heads to Selig for approval Page 29

